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# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**The 4675 meeting of the Brisbane City Council,**

**held at City Hall, Brisbane**

**on Tuesday 15 March 2022**

**at 1pm**

**Prepared by:**

**Council and Committee Liaison Office**

**Governance, Council and Committee Services**

**City Administration and Governance**

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## PRESENT:

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER) – LNP

The Chair of Council, Councillor David McLACHLAN (Hamilton) – LNP

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| --- | --- |
| **LNP Councillors (and Wards)** | **ALP Councillors (and Wards)** |
| Krista ADAMS (Holland Park) (Deputy Mayor)  Greg ADERMANN (Pullenvale)  Adam ALLAN (Northgate)  Tracy DAVIS (McDowall)  Fiona HAMMOND (Marchant)  Vicki HOWARD (Central)  Steven HUANG (MacGregor)  Sarah HUTTON (Jamboree)  Sandy LANDERS (Bracken Ridge)  James MACKAY (Walter Taylor)  Kim MARX (Runcorn)  Peter MATIC (Paddington)  Ryan MURPHY (Chandler)  Angela OWEN (Calamvale)  Steven TOOMEY (The Gap) (Deputy Chair of Council)  Andrew WINES (Enoggera) | Jared CASSIDY (Deagon) (The Leader of the Opposition)  Peter CUMMING (Wynnum Manly)  Steve GRIFFITHS (Moorooka)  Charles STRUNK (Forest Lake) |
| **Queensland Greens Councillor (and Ward)**  Jonathan SRI (The Gabba) |
| **Independent Councillor (and Ward)**  Nicole JOHNSTON (Tennyson) |

## OPENING OF MEETING:

The Chair, Councillor David McLACHLAN, opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged the traditional custodians, and then proceeded with the business set out in the Agenda.

Chair: Please be seated.

I declare the meeting open.

Are there any apologies?

## APOLOGY:

**507/2021-22**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillors Fiona CUNNINGHAM and Lisa ATWOOD, and they were granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

**508/2021-22**

An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Kara COOK, and she was granted a leave of absence from the meeting on the motion of Councillor Jared CASSIDY, seconded by Councillor Charles STRUNK.

Chair: Confirmation of minutes, please.

## MINUTES:

**509/2021-22**

The Minutes of the 4673 and 4674 meetings of Council, held on 8 March 2022, copies of which had been forwarded to each Councillor, were presented, taken as read and confirmed on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON.

## QUESTION TIME:

Chair: Councillors, I draw your attention to Question Time.

Are there any questions of the LORD MAYOR or a Civic Cabinet Chair of any of the Standing Committees?

Councillor ADERMANN.

**Question 1**

Councillor ADERMANN: Thank you, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, over the past two weeks, we have seen the spirit of the Brisbane community shine as our city makes its way through our largest ever clean-up. Could you please update the Chamber on some of the efforts you have witnessed as you have visited suburbs throughout the city?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor ADERMANN, through you, Mr Chair, and you’re right, absolutely right. It is one of those things that has been said a lot, but it’s been said because it’s been meaningful, and that is we’ve really seen once again the spirit of Brisbane come out in recent weeks. It’s always been there, but there are certain times when it really comes to the fore. You get to see what a city and what a community is really made of in a time of crisis like we’ve seen.

You know, we can’t forget that the people of Brisbane and the Brisbane community is still going through the tail end of the COVID pandemic, as well. It’s lasted for now over two years. So, to have that pandemic, which has created a lot of pressure and a lot of stress on so many people, concerns for so many businesses, and then to have a natural disaster and a flood like we’ve seen now on top of that, that would be enough to break a lot of people in a lot of places around the world, but not here in Brisbane.

Just to witness the way that everyone has come together, whether it’s been the unofficial Mud Army that started straight away, the friends and family army helping each other, the neighbours army, the official Mud Army, whether it’s been the ADF (Australian Defence Force) personnel that have stepped in and done a fantastic job, whether it’s been the Council workers and contractors that have helped us, whether it’s been the community organisations and the sporting clubs that have really rallied together, there’s just been so many remarkable things that have happened and I want to thank the Brisbane community for being who they are, for being such a strong and resilient community.

Now, that is not said in any way to undersell the significant impact—I’m not saying or suggesting in any way that everything’s all right. There’s still so much recovery that needs to be done, but one thing that is for certain, the Brisbane community has stepped up and that spirit of Brisbane is alive and well and it’s never been stronger. It’s been—like all of you, I’ve spent the last couple of weeks out and about as much as possible, and there’s been so many little wins and little stories and anecdotes that have just brought joy to my heart.

It is the story of someone who has been flooded, you know, and they’re looking at all of their possessions, the contents of their life out on the kerbside, yet they’ll say, the neighbour down the road got flooded worse, so I’m okay, I’m okay. It’s the stories of the people that were in our evacuation centres, like Diane in Rocklea, in Inskip Street, that I was chatting with the other day as we did the clean-up, and hearing her story about what she had been through and also now back in her property, but living in a caravan in the property because the house is uninhabitable at this point in time, but still remarkably resilient.

It’s the stories like at Downey Park on Sunday afternoon when I went there and saw girls playing netball. Downey Park was smashed by the flood, yet literally within a short period of time, the courts had been cleaned up and they were playing netball again. It is just these fantastic examples and stories of people bouncing back and being resilient. Now, obviously, the clean-up continues, the work continues, the recovery continues, and that will take some time. We’re getting to the point of almost completing the first pass of the biggest kerbside collection effort the city has ever seen, and we’re really making sure that we do that job thoroughly. As I’ve repeatedly said, we will come back again until the job is done.

We’re also working on our support for a whole range of community organisations that will be impacted through our $5,000 grants. The form for the rates relief is now online and live, so people can apply for that, and there’s been a lot of interest in doing that, but also the work continues when it comes to our community assets that we manage, whether it’s parks or bikeways, community facilities, the whole range of other facilities. The work is gearing up on those, not only in direct response to the flood, but as part of the recovery process.

So, I particularly want to thank the Council officers who have done such a fantastic job in what is an extreme circumstance. The Council officers who are not doing their normal jobs at the moment, and there are so many Council officers doing a different job to what they would normally do, whether it’s the parking inspector that as out in Fairfield, when we’re down in Williams Street and Turner Street in Fairfield, who was just helping with the clean-up, part of the Mud Army.

Whether it is the librarians that are out there doing different things to what they would normally do, there are so many examples, whether it’s the parks officers who are now involved in kerbside clean-up, there are countless examples of people going above and beyond and doing the right thing for our community.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 2**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

Over the past two weeks, LORD MAYOR, it’s very clear that drainage is a serious issue in our city. From the 2019-20 financial year to the 2020-21 financial year, you cut funding on drainage infrastructure by nearly $1.5 million. Resident complaints about drainage subsequently increased by 62% from 2019 to 2020. Even before this flood, residents have been crying out for better drainage infrastructure.

In places like Hemmant, residents get flooded after light rain, and recent housing developments that your LNP Administration has approved have made matters worse. In my own ward, there are drainage projects including tidal valves and stormwater drainage that Council officers have identified as real and serious issues that require funding in the budget, because there is not enough funding in the drainage maintenance budget to do this work? LORD MAYOR, why have you been neglecting Brisbane’s drainage infrastructure?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Yes, yet another question based on inaccurate and not factual information. I think all of us would remember Councillor CASSIDY’s wonderful interview with Steve Austin recently about drainage, where he was trying to illustrate that somehow drainage had been cut, when Steve Austin pointed out that, actually, we’re spending more on drainage. When Councillor CASSIDY was asked what he thinks—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —what he thinks we should spend on drainage, all he could do was giggle. He giggled. He didn’t know, he just said, more. Well, the reality is, we have continued to invest appropriately in the whole range of things that respond to flooding. Now, it is a fallacy that one single—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —thing will stop flooding.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

LORD MAYOR: It is a fallacy. There is no amount of drainage that you can build that will negate the fact that Brisbane is built on a floodplain. These decisions that were made 150, 160 years ago in some cases, and certainly—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —sometimes before the City of Brisbane—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

LORD MAYOR: —even existed, these decisions are legacy decisions that we all live with. Entire suburbs, entire suburbs, places like Rocklea, places like Fairfield, if you took the logic that you could solve flooding there, you would clear the entire suburb of people. There’d be no homes, no businesses. That’s not a realistic way of responding to this. So, drainage, things like flood buyback, things like flood resilient homes, things like backflow valves, things like flood mapping and awareness for residents, things like resilient programs for infrastructure and assets, the whole suite of them are the appropriate response to flooding, but there is no one single thing—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —that will solve the problem—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —and anyone suggesting that there is one single thing is a snake oil salesman, a snake oil salesman, giving false hope to residents for political purposes.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: That is not—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

LORD MAYOR: That is not right in this sort of situation. Now, let’s have a grown-up conversation about the things that need to have—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Let’s not—

Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

LORD MAYOR: —try and sell snake oil to the residents of Brisbane, that one single thing will solve all their problems. I even saw on the TV, there was someone suggesting that we should have the big London floodgates. You know the big ones that stop the tides coming in? Well, I mean, not only would that cost billions of dollars, but it also ignores the fact that stuff was coming down the river as coming up the river.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, these simplistic solutions do not do anything for anyone. They simply don’t. As I said, there’s a whole suite of responses that we’ve been undertaking as a Council since 2011, and there’s a whole suit of responses that we will continue to undertake, and I made it very clear that we are absolutely open to tweaking our investment in different areas based on the outcome of this event and what we’ve learnt from it. We need to make sure we learn from it, and if there’s more investment that needs to go here or there, then we will certainly consider that and we’re open to it, but suggesting that one single thing is a silver bullet is very misleading and very disappointing.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor MACKAY.

**Question 3**

Councillor MACKAY: Thank you, Chair. My question is to the Chair of the City Standards Committee, Councillor MARX.

Councillor MARX, Brisbane is currently dealing with the biggest ever waste clean-up in our city’s history. Tens of thousands of tonnes of waste has already been collected from kerbsides with much more to go. Could you please provide an update to the Chamber on Operation Collect, including some of the milestones reached to date?

Chair: Councillor MARX.

Councillor MARX: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair, and through you, I thank Councillor MACKAY for the question. As Councillor MACKAY knows, the severe weather Brisbane recently experienced was not your average summer storm, so therefore this is not your average clean-up and recovery effort. We’ve seen the devastation of floods and what families are dealing with, and the Schrinner Council is prioritising support for Brisbane residents to clean up and safely dispose of their household flood‑related waste.

Council officers, contractors, and the ADF have been out every day in communities, helping to rebuild lives. They have been working through the night to get families and businesses back on their feet, and as a part of the LORD MAYOR’s three-pronged waste strategy, a special flood-affected kerbside collection was instigated to clean up Brisbane. Operation Collect should not be mistaken as a normal citywide kerbside collection. As all of us as local Councillors know, a general kerbside collection is where people, residents get to put out the stuff that they actually don’t want anymore.

This Operation Collect is they basically have no choice. They are pretty much emptying their whole houses and lives onto the footpath, and in many cases—I was out there with Councillor MACKAY at one point—they’re actually—their walls and their ceilings are actually also joining all of their worldly belongings on the footpath. So, there is an enormous amount of flood-affected waste that’s been collected to date and has been put out. Obviously, we’ve still got waste being taken directly to our resource recovery centres, and we’ve had more than 19,000 free trips by the residents.

Operation Collect has had thousands of people on the ground, making hundreds of trips as we speak picking up flood-affected waste and clearing it off our streets. Council has got every available truck, waste compactor and contractor, every available person and machine on the ground cleaning up the city. I want to make it very clear to the Chamber, Operation Collect is moving through all the flood‑affected areas and no one will be missed.

I also want to take, at this point, to say a very big thank you to those Council officers, those guys and girls that are out there on the ground. We potentially don’t know their names, we potentially may never ever get to meet any of them or some of them or all of them, and especially as a Chair of City Standards, there’s a number of people in my portfolio, chances are I will never get to meet them, but I know that they’re out there working very hard for our residents, so I want to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to them.

I also want to raise an emerging issue with the Chamber today which is illegal dumping, and I’ve had multiple reports of residential and commercial flood waste appearing in parks and community facilities across the city. So, our message to the residents of Brisbane is clear on this. There is no need to dump your waste in community facilities or parks. If you have flood-affected waste or household items, it will either be picked up through Operation Collect or take it to one of our four resource recovery centres for free. Our Compliance Team is monitoring illegal dumping across the city and fines will be issued to those who continue to do the wrong thing.

I am aware that there was a situation out in one of the industrial areas where the compliance officers went out and spoke to those local businesses and were told that the waste that was on the roadway was washed down in the floods, so I don’t know about any flood that you’ve ever been in, but I’ve never seen one that stacks a whole load of tyres neatly in big piles and that. So, anyway, that was their story and they’re sticking to it. So, I just want to say again, thank you to the Council officers for all the work you’ve done.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

**Question 4**

Councillor JOHNSTON: My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, I refer you to your answer from last week’s question about flood warnings, and I quote, you said the following: ‘I have said repeatedly, based on the information that we got’—and I’ll repeat that—‘based on the information that we got and the timelines we had, we got it out as quickly as possible’, end quote. For most people in Brisbane, that was approximately 8 or 9pm on Sunday, 27 February, well after numerous houses in Tennyson Ward had flooded in Oxley, Fairfield, Yeronga, Corinda, and more.

The previous day, from 11am on Saturday, 26 February, I was reporting to the LDCC (Local Disaster Coordination Centre) flooded homes around Tennyson Ward, as is our role in an emergency. Why were you not listening to the information from your Councillors on the ground in suburbs known to flood to provide stronger, clearer, and more timely warning and evacuation advice?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor JOHNSTON, through you, Mr Chair, for the question. Obviously, the matter of flood warning and early warning systems and early alerts is very topical, and I thank you for raising this question. In terms of reports of flooding across the city, we definitely had significant reports of flooded roads, flooded creeks, flooded sporting fields, closed roads throughout the Friday night and the Saturday, but I am yet to see any indication that there were flooded homes at that point in time, and I certainly—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —couldn’t find any records from you—

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR: —in that respect.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I have the emails. I’ve already provided them to Justice de Jersey this morning, and that advice—

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —that advice—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —that advice—the LORD MAYOR is lying to the Council Chamber—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and that advice was provided to the LDCC.

Chair: —please sit down. That is not a point of order.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: It seems it doesn’t really matter whether I answer the question or not or what I say, Councillor JOHNSTON has a point she wants to make. The reality is, I have seen no information from Councillor JOHNSTON or anyone else that there was flooded homes on the Saturday. Remember, Saturday was the day that the Premier was saying there’s nothing to worry about.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, there’s definitely flooding going on in creeks and through a lot of different areas and roads were closed. We knew that. We all saw that, but look, I’m not suggesting that I was able to be in everywhere at every part of the city at once to see this, but based on the information coming in to me and the information coming from a whole range of different sources, I wasn’t aware of any flooding that was happening on Saturday of homes, of homes. There was other types of flooding happening, as I’ve pointed out.

Look, this is something I’m happy to have a look at, and the emails that Councillor JOHNSTON is referring to, I’m happy to have a look at those. I have not seen those emails, and I can tell all Councillors that the last thing I was doing was actually waiting for her emails to come in at that point. I was not doing that. I was working with the Council officers, looking at the flood mapping and the flood modelling. I was working to make sure we got early notification out to people as the situation evolved, but I certainly was not at any stage on Saturday given an indication that houses had flooded on the Saturday.

So, yes, happy to have a look at this, Councillor JOHNSTON, and I say that genuinely. If there are emails, that’s good. I’ll have a look, but I certainly didn’t see them and I don’t know anyone else in my team that was aware of those emails or reports, either. So, happy to have a look at that, but it’s certainly news to me, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further questions?

Councillor OWEN.

**Question 5**

Councillor OWEN: Thank you. My question is to the Acting Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, Councillor HUANG. Councillor HUANG, strong cooperation between the Morrison Government and the Schrinner Council continues to deliver for residents with the allocation of $23 million in the LRCI, which is the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grants for targeted local projects. Could you please update the Chamber on some of these projects, which are being funded by the Morrison Government and the Schrinner Council?

Chair: Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Oh, thank you, Mr Chair, and I’d like to thank Councillor OWEN for the question. Earlier this year, we were pleased to receive confirmation on the latest Council project to receive funding from the Morrison Government’s Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program. This is the third phase of the program. In this round, we will receive $23 million, as Councillor OWEN mentioned, towards seven key projects right across our suburbs. This adds to the $11.7 million allocated in Phase 1 and $40.7 million in Phase 2.

Overall, the LRCI program will deliver $75.8 million in funding towards 74 projects across Brisbane. Forty-nine projects have already been completed, and I’m pleased to update the Chamber on the seven latest Schrinner Council projects to receive funding. Well, Councillor OWEN, you will be excited to hear that over $7 million will be provided to improve roads in Pallara. Stage—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HUANG: Yes, Stage 1 of Wadeville Street and Ritchie Road corridor improvement project will improve safety and reduce congestion. Works will include improvements from Wadeville Street at Parkwood Road to Van—is that Dieren or Dieren?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor HUANG: Van Dieren Road, Pallara, including the installation of traffic signals. Right turn improvements on Ritchie Road into Pallara State School, and a new children’s crossing on Ritchie Road into the school. This will benefit all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport passengers. This also, $4.3 million in funding for the Shorncliffe escarpment—excuse me.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor HUANG: Escarpment, yes, sorry. This is a local heritage-listed natural asset, which requires works to protect its environmental and recreational values are protected, maintained, and enhanced at this iconic Brisbane foreshore destination. The funding will initiate priority stages of the improvement works to support the natural systems and enhance visitor amenity. We know the escarpment is affected by severe weather events, including the recent record rainfall event.

These works will be timely to ensure public safety of visitors to the escarpment is improved, and will support and reinstate the natural systems of this area to become more resilient in the future. Also, there is also $4.5 million towards Council’s Witton Barracks community hub project in Indooroopilly. The Witton Barracks site played a vital role in military intelligence during World War II. The three cell block buildings on the site are of significant historical interest and are listed on the State’s heritage register.

The works will include the refurbishment and reuse of the historic Witton Barracks precinct to deliver a significant community asset, but we also received $6 million towards a new Brisbane international cycle park, to be located within Murarrie Recreation Reserve. We are upgrading this facility to be a destination, premier international cycling and world precinct. The works will include the construction of a portion of the overall proposed development. This exciting project will see the criterium track upgraded to international standards and a modern clubhouse built to cater for the demand that we know the upgraded facility will generate.

There is also funding for lighting upgrades on Ipswich Road in Woolloongabba, and at the Kelvin Grove Urban Village. These projects will improve safety and reduce energy consumption. We will also be supporting the Bracken Ridge Scouts and Girl Guides. These groups are both located in McPherson Park, and this Federal funding will support building maintenance works to replace the roof at the Scout facility, and deliver drainage and plumbing maintenance for the Girl Guides.

We once again thank the Morrison Government for their support of the Schrinner Council and of the people of Brisbane through LRCI program. These projects have supported our economic recovery during the pandemic and will continue to support us as we recover from the floods.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUANG.

Further questions?

Councillor GRIFFITHS. Your mic’s not on, Councillor GRIFFITHS. Not on. Councillor GRIFFITHS, we’re just trying to sort out your mic issue. We’re not hearing you. Would you like to reallocate the question to one of your team?

Councillor CASSIDY.

**Question 6**

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

Yesterday, the Mackay Regional Council sent a crew of field service workers to Brisbane to help out with flood clean-up. In their own words, they said they were answering an SOS from Brisbane City Council. Now, while this help from Mackay is appreciated, it shouldn’t be necessary. It’s clear your LNP Administration’s obsession with contracting out the basics like mowing and painting is taking its toll again.

Thanks to your decisions, Council’s workforce is now so hollow that we have to beg for help from other regional councils. If more of the basics were done in-house by employees, we could be redirecting those workers to help with flood recovery, of course. LORD MAYOR, will you now admit that your decisions to contract out the basics are failing this city?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Mr Chair, I can tell you that the decision to contract our grass cutting was made by the Australian Labor Party, and I can tell you that grass cutting played no part of the flood recovery process. Grass cutting contractors are still required to cut grass. They’re not required for flood recovery purposes. So, another spurious example that’s been used here—

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —and one that is particularly hypocritical, but—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please.

LORD MAYOR: —I really do wonder about the type of person that would try to make a political issue about another Council helping us out.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: What type of people would do that?

Chair: Councillor STRUNK.

LORD MAYOR: What type of people would criticise the fact that other councils are offering and have agreed to help us out? Like, that is a good thing. That is a good thing, and I want to commend the various councils that have offered and agreed to help us out, including Redland City Council. Obviously, Redland had some relatively minor impacts of flooding, but nothing to the scale of Brisbane. So, they have some crews that they have provided to us to support us, so that is something we are genuinely grateful for. The Highlands Council, the Mackay Council, and we have had a number of other councils—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Sorry? Gladstone Council provided some support, as well. I’ve got to say, if they are ever in a situation where they need help, we will reciprocate because we really appreciate their support, but I made it very clear last week in Question Time when I was asked a question about contracting out that we actually have more staff since I became LORD MAYOR in Field Services, in that area—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —and fewer—City Standards, that’s right—old habits die hard, City Standards. We have more full-time equivalent staff than when I became LORD MAYOR and we have fewer contractors.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: So, how does this fit with Labor’s political narrative? It’s simply a made-up, bogus thing. It is a made-up, bogus thing. We—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: No, Councillor GRIFFITHS—

LORD MAYOR: No, we don’t want you to say anything.

Chair: —you’re not allowed to interject. We heard you, though, thank you.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Confirmed, we hear you.

LORD MAYOR: We’ve been so grateful for all of the support. It’s like Councillor CASSIDY saying, oh, why do you need the ADF? If you had more full-time staff, you wouldn’t need the ADF. This is an emergency situation here.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: The whole point of this emergency response is that it goes beyond and above our business as usual operations.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: We’ve diverted people from all different types of jobs in Council to help us out, and this whole attempt to try and politicise something which is just wrong is really shameful. It’s sort of like saying, you know, I’m not going to give to the Salvos because the government should be solving that problem. We should be grateful for councils like Mackay and Gladstone and Highlands and Redlands—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —that really—they show the spirit of Brisbane and the spirit of Queensland. It’s a pity that Councillor CASSIDY doesn’t.

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor LANDERS.

**Question 7**

Councillor LANDERS: My question is to the Chair of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee, Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD, while there was a temporary pause on some of our much‑loved community events and programs, I understand that many of them are back up and running. Could you please update the Chamber on what residents can look forward to when it comes to our program of community facilities and events?

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair, and through you, I thank Councillor LANDERS for the question, and for her interest in the flood recovery across the Lifestyle and Community Services program. Can I just start off by saying that the entire Lifestyle and Community Services program area has put in a tremendous amount of effort in the past two weeks, not only in helping our sporting and community groups across the city, but also by ensuring that community facilities are operational and able to service the needs of the community.

On the topic of our community organisations, I’m happy to report that many of the community and sporting clubs across our network have been recovering, through the support of both Council Sport and Recreation Officers and their dedicated network of community volunteers. We’ve seen across Brisbane countless working bees organised by our grassroot community organisations, with volunteers and members embodying the spirit of Brisbane and doing their part for their community.

After a massive effort over the past two weeks, I’m very proud to report that last weekend, all major sporting organisations recommenced training activities across Brisbane with peak bodies such as Football Queensland announcing the return of all competitions as of Friday, 18 March. It’s important to mention such milestones as it represents the fact that our community and sports clubs are beginning to recover. In terms of Council managed assets and services, I’d like to take this opportunity to highlight the activities currently on offer across Brisbane to residents.

Beginning with our much-loved libraries, I’m pleased to report that over the past two weeks, all our libraries within the library network were open to visitors looking to use them. At a time of great need, I’m told that some of our libraries saw an increase in customers using our facilities to access power, internet, and computer services, and it makes me very proud to hear that these services could be offered to the residents of Brisbane who needed them.

In regards to scheduled events, I’m happy to report that library activities have returned as of 7 March, bringing back more things for residents to see and do across Brisbane. Visitors to our libraries are once again able to experience a wide variety of activities, including our First 5 Forever reading program, our very well received Writers in Residence program, along with some new programming over the coming few weeks to assist residents to reinvigorate their gardens after flooding. For those who find themselves within the CBD and looking for some great activities to see and do, one need look no further than our very own Museum of Brisbane.

The Museum of Brisbane is an oasis from the hustle and bustle of the city, a sleek, contemporary space boldly placed on the rooftop of the city’s premier heritage building, City Hall. It provides exhibition programs that explore aspects of Brisbane’s history and culture through social history, visual arts, craft and design, and is proudly supported by the Schrinner Council. I’m happy to report to the Chamber that the Museum of Brisbane is open to visitors.

Its programming continues, including its tours of both the clock tower and Brisbane City Hall. The clock tower includes a look behind Australia’s largest analogue clock faces and time to explore the observation platform that shares a unique view of our city, and of course the City Hall tours allow visitors to see its neoclassical façade, mosaic tiles, stained glass windows, and soaring ceilings.

In addition, I’m happy to report that the Museum of Brisbane’s latest exhibition, *Making Place: 100 Views of Brisbane*, will be open to the public on Saturday, 26 March. Making Placewill present more than 100 historical and contemporary depictions of the Brisbane region from the Museum of Brisbane collections. Residents are encouraged to become immersed in a newly commissioned sound artwork by artist in residence, Lawrence English; *Site Listening: Brisbane*, that captures the city’s many soundscapes. I encourage you all to visit while this exhibition is on offer and flagged this exciting exhibition with the residents of your ward.

For those looking to get out and about and explore the history and culture of Brisbane, I’m also very happy to report that our Brisbane Greeters program is also back up and running, with some minor modifications to some of our greets. The Greeters Choice CBD walking tour continues to run seven days a week and connects visitors and locals to the hidden secrets, historic stories, as well as current events and opportunities for attendees to shop local. As many of you know, March is Women’s History Month and we have a special greet that recognises and celebrates the women who have contributed to our history and helped shape the City of Brisbane.

There really are a lot of activities taking place across our city right now and I would like to take the last few moments to highlight these. The planetarium is currently fully operational and ready to accept visitors and school bookings, with full holiday programs being offered over the Easter school holidays.

Chair: Councillor HOWARD, I’m sorry, your time has expired.

Further questions?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes.

Chair: We can hear you.

**Question 8**

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, can you hear me now? That’s good. Thank you. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR, in 2005, Brisbane City Council introduced a voluntary home buyback scheme allowing residents with flood-affected properties to sell their homes to Council. After the 2011 Brisbane City Council flood review, it was recommended to increase and expand this program. In 2015, the LNP significantly reduced funding for this program, and then in 2018, your LNP Administration cut the program. In the recent floods, we saw many homes who were inundated in 2011 go under again. These homes were clearly built on floodplains and, as a result of poor planning decisions by this Council, were located in terrible spots. LORD MAYOR, why did your LNP Administration cut the Council’s voluntary home buyback scheme?

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Well, thank you. That’s an interesting question, Councillor GRIFFITHS. I can tell you that I wasn’t the LORD MAYOR in 2018, if your memory’s that bad. I wasn’t the LORD MAYOR until 2019, but based on a decade of experience with the Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme or flood buyback scheme, this Council had—we invested over $50 million to buy 112 homes. So, that’s a significant investment, $50 million. When you think about the different things that Council can invest money in, that is a lot of money that was put towards this program and 112 homes were purchased.

By the end of that process, we were getting a situation where an average of—across the program, two and three people were knocking back the offer to sell or for us to purchase their home, and in the final period of that program, we were getting very few yeses at all. So it was really—there was a lot of people that just weren’t interested in selling. So, this is something that I’ve made clear that we’re happy to have a look at reactivating, but for it to be a well-funded program, it will require support beyond what Brisbane City Council can provide.

So, when we had the flood reports that came out of 2011, it was actually suggested and recommended at that time that the flood purchase scheme or the flood buyback scheme should be a three-level-of-government scheme, Federal, State, and local. Guess who came to the party? It was only us. It was only us on our own. So, with that investment of $50 million, a certain amount was achieved, but when you think about it, more than 20,000 or around 20,000 homes experienced some form of inundation in this recent flood, and then there are also a range of businesses, as well.

So, something like 28 to 30,000 properties experienced some inundation. Now, where do you start? Where do you start? So, at the time, the flood purchase scheme was based on creek flooding of Q2, basically. It was creek and river flooding of Q2, which basically means that it would flood several times a year on average. That’s how regular it was. They’re the homes that we started looking at purchasing, and even for homes that flooded several times a year, two-thirds of people said no. I mean, it’s one thing to flood in 2011, then again in 2022, but imagine if your house flooded twice a year. Even in that situation, people were saying no.

So, I would simply say, just like I said with the drainage question, just be careful of thinking that this is a silver bullet, because it is not. It can provide some good outcomes and I’m certainly not opposed to a voluntary purchase scheme, but there are billions of dollars’ worth of property that were impacted in the 2022 floods, billions. No government alone can afford to buy all of that property, nor would anyone actually choose to buy all that property. More importantly than that, you can be sure that a large number of those people wouldn’t want to sell, a large number. So, we’re certainly open to reintroduction of a buyback scheme. It was run for a decade in this city and it’s interesting because I didn’t see one under the Labor Party. Under Labor, there was no flood buyback scheme. All we had under Labor were secret flood reports, remember?

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Remember? They covered up the flood reports. They did a bit of modelling behind the scenes and thought, oh no, we can’t let anyone know about this.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Let’s keep it secret. So, our approach has always been different, and so we started back in 2005 that decade-long program, invested more than $50 million into it, but that was just one of many things that we did. I think, overall, the most important thing that we have done is to make freely available to everyone the flood mapping for every single property in Brisbane. That way, people can make informed decisions about where they live and where they want to buy a property, and those decisions are really important. One of the things that has struck me, as well, during this last couple of weeks is, I was talking to a guy—actually, I was with you, Councillor MACKAY, in—

Chair: I’m sorry, LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

LORD MAYOR: Okay.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Thank you.

Further questions?

Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: Thank you, Mr Chair. My question is to the Chair of Economic Development and the Brisbane—

Chair: Excuse me, Councillor HUTTON.

Councillor HUTTON: You all right?

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS is raising a point of order. Oh, it’s on mute again. Hm? It’s still on mute. Can we roll on?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Here we go.

Chair: Okay.

**510/2021-22**

At that juncture, Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY, that the Standing Rules be suspended to allow the moving of a motion.

Chair: Sorry, Councillor GRIFFITHS, you’re moving a motion under 12(3)?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I’m understanding I’ve got three minutes to move this motion. So, as we know and as we’ve just heard, Brisbane has gone through yet another major flood in 10 years and there’s been a massive impact on residents, business, and in particular, their homes. I received, as did the LORD MAYOR yesterday, an email from a local resident in Rocklea, a number of local residents, but a resident called Luke. He was asking that myself and the LORD MAYOR go and meet him and other residents in Rocklea to actually see what they’ve endured.

Many of these residents down there have lost everything, and actually, they were flooding on Saturday, LORD MAYOR. They were being evacuated from their homes on Saturday. Many of these residents had to be evacuated from their home, and he is asking to participate in the buyback scheme or to participate in the Resilient Homes program, not just for himself but for other residents of Rocklea. Rocklea, as you just said, LORD MAYOR, many of those homes flood two times a year or flood into the living areas once a year—

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —and it doesn’t make the news.

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS. Councillor GRIFFITHS, you need to establish why this couldn’t be a notified motion, why you couldn’t put it on the notice paper before 1pm yesterday.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. This couldn’t be a notified motion because this came through yesterday after notified motions had closed.

So, the reason I’m raising this now is this resident hasn’t seen the LORD MAYOR in Rocklea, would like to meet with the LORD MAYOR in Rocklea, and is asking that the LORD MAYOR attend a meeting in the next two weeks with myself and the LORD MAYOR and residents, so that we can actually discuss the impact of flooding on those homes and on the Buyback program and the Resilient Flood Homes program.

Chair: Okay. Councillor GRIFFITHS has moved a motion for the suspension of standing rules.

The Chair submitted the motion for the suspension of the Standing Rules to the Chamber and it was declared **carried** on the voices.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Division.

*The division lapsed for want of a seconder.*

Chair: You may now move the motion, Councillor GRIFFITHS, and can you circulate it, please?

**511/2021-22**

At that juncture, Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS moved, seconded by Councillor Jared CASSIDY—

*That I am requesting the Lord Mayor Schrinner to meet with myself and the owners of the property at 14 Galah Street and other properties within Rocklea within the next two weeks, which is 28 March this year, at a time best suiting each of us, to review the flood impact on our community. I’d like to work with Council on property buyback and Flood Resilient Homes program in Rocklea, and this resident says, I have pursued with Council over a number of years regarding these programs, and they have been knocked back and he wants to have those programs.*

Chair: Have you forwarded that through?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: No, I haven’t.

Chair: Okay. That’s a very long motion and I have no opportunity to repeat it back word‑for‑word.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I can read it again if you want.

Chair: I will take it that the motion is to—that the LORD MAYOR meet with you and a resident in—

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you—

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, this is clearly a shambolic urgency motion. Just perhaps, Councillor GRIFFITHS can, you know, reset this—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: —write it down, send it through to you after the afternoon tea break.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON. Councillor JOHNSTON, no shouting out.

I’m sorry, Councillor MURPHY, I didn’t hear your point of order.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: My point of order, Chair, was that this has clearly not been a well thought through urgency motion. It’s not structured properly, hasn’t been sent to you. Perhaps Councillor GRIFFITHS can reset—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: —send it to you after the afternoon—sorry, Chair, I’m trying to make my point of order.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Can we—there is a very long motion there, Councillor GRIFFITHS, with a fairly long preamble. Can I take it that your motion essentially is that you would like the LORD MAYOR and you to meet with a resident in your area, your ward?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yeah, Rocklea, it’s residents in Rocklea by 28 March, yes, to discuss flooding.

Chair: Okay, I’ll take that as the motion, Councillor MURPHY.

I’ll take that as read as your motion, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes.

Chair: You have 10 minutes to speak to the motion.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, and as we have heard, residents all over the city were affected by flooding.

Councillor WINES: Point of order.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Rocklea was—

Chair: Point of order, Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Just a tiny thing, Councillor GRIFFITHS does require a seconder.

Chair: Ah, yes.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Oh, Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: No, no, no. That’s—that is—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor WINES: Mr Chair, that’s not appropriate.

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor WINES: That kind of conduct is not at all acceptable in this place—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor WINES: —to a point that the Councillor is—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I consider you—

Councillor WINES: That’s a breach of the Code of Conduct, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Chair: —are displaying unsuitable meeting conduct and in accordance with section 21(4) of the Meetings Local Law, I hereby request that you cease your unacceptable behaviour in this place by standing, shouting, and otherwise displaying—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: —unacceptable behaviour.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: I am doing my job, Councillor JOHNSTON, by reading out—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I consider you are displaying unsuitable meeting conduct and in accordance with section 21(4) of the Meetings Local Law, I hereby request that you cease your unacceptable behaviour.

I believe the motion was seconded.

Councillor CASSIDY: I did second it.

Chair: Yes.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Okay, thank you. Look, in terms of this motion, it’s really simple. It’s asking for the LORD MAYOR to come out to Rocklea, meet with me and residents, and he still hasn’t contacted me or discussed anything about Rocklea in relation to that suburb and the massive impacts we have had down there, not just on homes but on industry, industry we haven’t even started scratching, which is disappointing that our leadership in this city isn’t interested in Rocklea.

I really have been writing year-in, year-out about this resident who had been taking this up in terms of the Buyback program. His home, this resident’s home, was eligible under the previous Buyback program, but when we went to apply for it, the Buyback program was over. This resident is—we went through this in 2011 where the previous resident had his home wiped out, and he moved out of that home. Now we have this young family in the home. They’re being wiped out. Many of these people have no insurance.

I know I keep hearing the LORD MAYOR say, well, all they’ve got to do is check on the maps and find out whether their property floods. Their properties do flood. These people buy these properties because they can’t afford to live anywhere else. They can’t afford the insurance. So, the insurance a year for these properties is $8,000. We have people in Rocklea now who have mental health problems, who are on low incomes, who are even trapped in their homes now, even in their homes. They’re in these homes that constantly flood.

I want to get a resolution on this so that we can offer the community of Rocklea a chance to resolve this issue, so we either do buyback or we do house raising, particularly targeting the worst-affected homes so that we’re getting those homes out of the water, so that in 10 years’ time when the Olympics are on and when, supposedly, the next flood will hit, we’ll actually not have to be going through this with these residents. I think it makes sense. It’s really good for residents to resolve this problem. It’s not just our Council that will be dealing with this problem. It’s going to be every Council in Australia dealing with this problem that’s caused significantly by climate change. We need to move with the times.

I think what this resident is asking is reasonable. He’s asking for a meeting with you, LORD MAYOR. You determine the budget. He knows you determine the budget. They know, residents know that you have the majority of Councillors, 19. They want to meet with you. They want to see you on the ground. They want to show you through their homes and show you what they’ve gone through so that we can actually get a resolution to this, because ultimately, what I’m trying to do here is get a commitment and get a resolution to this, like we had.

Let’s just be honest here, LORD MAYOR, it was the Labor-majority Council that actually introduced the Buyback program.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: It was done by the Labor-majority Council.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: So let’s—and it was cut by the LNP.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: So let’s be honest, the Labor-majority Council brought that program in and—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —he and I want to see it continue on, not to be cut by the LNP and to be told, essentially, these people—what I heard you say, LORD MAYOR, is these people, they chose to buy there. Well, tough. Tough luck, really. They’re buying there because they can’t afford anywhere else, and these homes are affordable homes that we should be making safe for all residents. So, LORD MAYOR, I encourage you to have a meeting with me and these residents onsite by 28 March. That’s what this motion is about. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. Well, what we’ve seen here is a shambolic attempt to try and politicise something which should not be politicised. It is quite clear that Councillor GRIFFITHS wanted to do his usual stunt and this, go back to the residents, say LNP voted against this motion, they don’t care. This is the kind of thing that happens when you’re prepared to burn people for political reasons like the Labor Party is.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Now, this is a real person here. This person should not be turned into a political football by Councillor GRIFFITHS, and I don’t need a motion of Council to meet with people in Rocklea—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —because I’ve already been out there and I didn’t see Councillor GRIFFITHS out there.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: The reality is, I care about—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —all of these people, but there were 30,000 people flooded in this city—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: —and I cannot possibly meet with all of them, but what—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR: —but what I will do is I will meet with this person, but I’m not going to meet with Councillor GRIFFITHS because he politicises everything. It is shameful and disgraceful.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I’ll meet with this person, and I’ve got a good story for this person to talk about because he is genuinely interested from this email in what can be done to help him, and I want to help him. I want to help him. Councillor GRIFFITHS, this is shameful.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: This is shameful. This—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Point of order.

LORD MAYOR: Councillor GRIFFITHS wants to use this resident for political purposes and it is disgusting and shameful.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, point of order.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. Yes, claim to be misrepresented.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Noted.

LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Now, in this particular case, this property, the resident is asking either to be part of a buyback scheme or to be part of the Flood Resilient Homes program, and I’ve just said that both of those programs, as far as I’m concerned, are on the table and I am open to both of those things, but one thing that Councillor GRIFFITHS maybe is aware of—he should be aware of it because he’s been the local Councillor for almost 20 years, I think—is that in our voluntary home purchase scheme, when it operated, we went to the previous owner of this same property and we offered to buy this property.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: This property, and the owner, previous owner, wasn’t interested. So we tried to buy this property.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: This same property.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: How dare Councillor GRIFFITHS try and politicise this? Like, this—we wanted to do the right thing. We wanted to buy this specific property, and this goes to show the home purchase scheme is voluntary—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: It is voluntary, but I want to help this resident. I will meet with this resident, but I’m not going to be dictated to by a motion of this Council to get involved in some kind of political meeting with Councillor GRIFFITHS. So I’ll be voting no to this motion, but I will be meeting with this resident.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak in support of this motion by Councillor GRIFFITHS, and I want to just talk to some of the accusations that this LORD MAYOR has just thrown around.

Chair: I’m sorry, excuse me, Councillor CASSIDY.

I’ll take the point of misrepresentation—

Councillor CASSIDY: Sorry.

Chair: —first, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, that’s it. There was two points of misrepresentation. One, I’m not using this gentleman politically. He actually knows that I was raising this today and he was happy for it. He’s trying to get a result. The second one was that I’m not interested in resolving these problems. I’m very interested. So, thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. So, the LORD MAYOR just now has thrown around some accusations that Labor Councillors are trying to politicise the response to the flood recovery, and he said that last week, as well. I just want to take the LORD MAYOR to task around this, because the only people that have been politicising both the flood crisis—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —and flood recovery are LNP Councillors.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Last week, we had the LORD MAYOR slandering Councillor GRIFFITHS, spreading lies that he wasn’t on the ground in his community. He was then forced to apologise. The LORD MAYOR stood up as a leader of this city in a public place in the Council Chamber and told a barefaced lie about the whereabouts of the Councillor.

Councillor WINES: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order—

Councillor CASSIDY: Go back to Dubai. Sit down.

Councillor WINES: No, no, point of order. That sort of—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor WINES: Look, can I ask that Councillor CASSIDY gets some emotional control over himself, please? Also, can I ask that the use of the terms that he is using about the LORD MAYOR are not—

Councillor CASSIDY: He lied.

Councillor WINES: —are not appropriate—

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor WINES: —in this place and I ask that he withdraw it, please.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

You’ve been asked to withdraw the observation, please, Councillor CASSIDY. Will you?

Councillor CASSIDY: Are you asking me to, Chair?

Chair: I am.

Councillor CASSIDY: I will.

Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: We then had this strange situation during the middle of this flood crisis where an LNP Councillor was using a fake account to troll Labor Councillors about the whereabouts of Councillor GRIFFITHS.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, you do need to come to the motion.

Councillor CASSIDY: Oh yes, that was a lie, Councillor MACKAY, I’ll take that. So that LNP Council, instead of supporting their community, was using a fake Facebook account to troll a Labor Councillor.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of—Councillor CASSIDY is misleading, and if he—

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: —has any evidence, he needs to—

Councillor CASSIDY: Oh yes.

DEPUTY MAYOR: —send it to the CEO or the CCC (Crime and Corruption Commission). We have no idea what—

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: —bollocks he is talking about.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, you’re making a number of observations here which may be consistent with things that happened, but I’d please ask you to come to the motion before us.

Councillor CASSIDY: Is the term bollocks acceptable?

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, I’m asking you to come to the motion.

Councillor CASSIDY: No, I will, I will, Chair, but I just want to know, is the term bollocks acceptable?

Chair: Are you using that word, Councillor CASSIDY?

Councillor CASSIDY: That’s—no, no, Councillor ADAMS just said what I said was bollocks. Is that an acceptable term?

Chair: I haven’t made a ruling before on bollocks, but in the context, I would ask you to come to the motion. I’m not going to make a ruling on the word bollocks.

Councillor CASSIDY: Then we had last week Councillor OWEN, who got up and said that the LORD MAYOR had sent her to Rocklea to ground truth what Councillor GRIFFITHS had been saying publicly. Now, what that was in essence was Councillor OWEN getting up in this Chamber and saying, the LORD MAYOR thought Councillor GRIFFITHS was lying about what was happening on the ground, and she was sent out to supposedly ground truth what was happening there on the ground.

Councillor HAMMOND: Point of order.

Councillor CASSIDY: She said she only went to the Rocklea Markets.

Chair: Point of order—

Councillor CASSIDY: We now know that Councillor—

Chair: Excuse me.

Point of order, Councillor HAMMOND.

Councillor HAMMOND: Could—I know the motion was a bit longwinded, but you did clarify what the motion was about. Could you bring the Leader of the Opposition back to the motion?

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Yes.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY—

Councillor CASSIDY: I’m responding to accusations that the LORD MAYOR levied at Labor Councillors.

Chair: No, to the motion before us, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: Yes. So, the LORD MAYOR, during his debate, made accusations about Labor Councillors, politicising the flood recovery, and I am responding to those. We had Councillor Adam ALLAN out there on his social media last week, saying that LNP Council workers were the ones doing the clean-up, instead of Brisbane City Council workers. So when this LORD MAYOR gets up here and he’s got the gall to stand up in this place and say that other people, who have been showing incredible leadership out in their wards, like Councillor GRIFFITHS, in supporting—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: —their communities, and when this LORD MAYOR gets up and says, oh no, that’s all political, they don’t really care, people will see right through that because out in Councillor GRIFFITHS’ ward, they see leadership, and from this LORD MAYOR, they do not.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I rise to speak on the motion moved by Councillor GRIFFITHS and to support his calls for buyback and to meet with the residents—and the LORD MAYOR to meet with the residents of Rocklea. In 2011, half of Rocklea was in Tennyson Ward, and I went through the floods with these people. Some of those homes were bought back and some weren’t, but a lot of the areas that we’re talking about today were actually part of Tennyson Ward. Parts of Rocklea still remain in Councillor GRIFFITHS’ ward, and now he has all of the suburb of Rocklea.

Unlike every single other Councillor in this room, I’ve actually been on the ground with him almost straight away. We were very lucky to have Tzu Chi offer to assist us again, and they came directly to Councillor GRIFFITHS and myself. They were so good in 2011, and we very gratefully accepted their offer of help and staged flood recovery on their Mud Army clean-up day from a street in Rocklea, in behind the showgrounds. Tzu Chi went out into Rocklea, Oxley, and Fairfield. I know we’re both incredibly grateful for everything that they did and all the other volunteers.

What hasn’t happened, and it still hasn’t happened up until now, is the LORD MAYOR of this city has not bothered to call one of the worst flood-affected Councillors in Brisbane, who represents one of the poorest parts of Brisbane, who does his best with very little. Thank you. I think the LORD MAYOR’s attacks on the Councillor for Rocklea and the people of Rocklea are so inappropriate.

LORD MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Claim to be misrepresented.

Chair: Noted.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No one could possibly misread what you have just done in this place as anything other than a deliberate—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: —nasty attack on the Councillor for Rocklea who represents the people of Rocklea. Now, let me be clear on the public record about this. I know that this LORD MAYOR is playing political games. He rang me in the first week and, despite my own forgivings about his behaviour over many years and that of the LNP, I took him out into my ward and I showed him what was going on. I know he’s been doing other things in my ward and using residents without their knowledge, and I think that’s pretty appalling, but I know—

LORD MAYOR: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order to you, LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Claim again to be grossly misrepresented.

Chair: Noted.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I know what you did with John Purcell. I know you took the State media out there. I know what you did.

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: You didn’t ask him in advance of doing it. You just did it.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please, to the motion.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I’m trying to do that, thank you, which is why I didn’t go into the detail, but I know what you did. What I want to say here is, if this LORD MAYOR was a genuine person and a genuine civic leader, he would have called Councillor GRIFFITHS. Even after last week, after last week in the Chamber when Councillor GRIFFITHS raised it, the LORD MAYOR could have done so, and he did not. He did not. Now, today, instead of responding in a human way, in a way a leader should do, and saying, yes, Councillor GRIFFITHS, we’ll meet with you and your residents in Rocklea, the LORD MAYOR stood up and attacked him.

That is completely unacceptable. The only people who have politicised what has happened in this city over the past two-and-a-half weeks is the LORD MAYOR. Councillors haven’t been able to get information from this Council because they’re LORD MAYOR announceables, and the only way that we can get that information is after the LORD MAYOR has announced it. As early—as late as today, Councillor MARX said exactly that thing in Committee this morning, that she couldn’t get back to me about flood stuff, but the LORD MAYOR would be announcing it.

Meanwhile, he Tweets out and it’s in his Tweet. This Council, for two weeks, has treated this flood as a PR (public relations) exercise for the LORD MAYOR, and where people have been in need and where they are still in need, he won’t even speak to their local Councillor, and he stands up and publicly attacks him in this place. Now, the Yeronga Community Centre has been a godsend in my ward. They are helping families from Moorooka Ward, as well. Yesterday, I received a call about Corella Street in Rocklea, and I’ve been liaising with Councillor GRIFFITHS’ office about this matter. An elderly man was taken to hospital, sitting in his damp home with no furniture, no power, nothing. A concerned neighbour called the ambulance.

It is not this Council’s sole responsibility to help people in need. That has to be done by all levels of government, and I am not letting the State Government off the hook. They have community disaster teams and they should be on the ground, but let me be clear, when the Councillors in this place stand up and they report concerns to the disaster team that is running our response, that are connected to all of the agencies, when the local Councillor says, you need to talk to people, you don’t attack them. In a crisis, you extend the hand of friendship, you extend the hand to help, and you go out there and do it.

You don’t go out there in your Liberal Party shirts from another ward and campaign in other peoples’ wards, and that’s what was going on in week one of the floods. You do not do that—

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —and that is what they were doing.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, I’m going to have to bring you back to the motion before us, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You do not send Angela OWEN, who has no authority, none, zero authority—

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —to stand outside—

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, we have had 10 minutes of personal attacks here. Can we just get to the motion or sit down, rather than go through all of this?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor MURPHY: You know, because I’m sure we’ll hear it again later, anyway.

Chair: That’s not a correct point of order.

But I do bring you back to the motion, please, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You do not send Angela OWEN to stand outside food businesses in Rocklea—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I will do a correct point of order. To the relevance of the motion, please.

Chair: Yes. Councillor JOHNSTON, I draw you back to the motion before us, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: You do not send Angela OWEN to stand outside food businesses—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —in Rocklea—

Chair: Councillor—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —if I can finish, my sentence is about Rocklea.

DEPUTY MAYOR: No you can’t, it’s not relevant.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: That’s what this is about, Rocklea.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I know—doesn’t know where Rocklea is.

Chair: Point of order to you—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: —DEPUTY MAYOR.

*Councillor interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Relevance to the motion.

Chair: Relevance to the motion, please.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It’s about Rocklea.

Chair: No, Councillor JOHNSTON, it’s a long way from being relevant to the motion, which was a request that the LORD MAYOR meet with a resident in that suburb. Please, to the motion before us.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: It is about representation, thank you. The LORD MAYOR won’t meet with them. He sent Councillor OWEN out there with no responsibility to stand outside and try and hang onto the coattails of the Army—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —instead of going himself—

Chair: Point of order to you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —to help people in need.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order. The relevance to the LORD MAYOR meeting the resident of 15 Galah Street.

Chair: Yes, thank you.

Councillor JOHNSTON, there is a very specific motion before us.

Councillor JOHNSTON: And buyback and assistance in Rocklea. I listened to the motion.

Chair: The—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: I know these guys don’t want to listen to the motion, and all they’re trying to do now is disrupt my response. Let me be clear. This LORD MAYOR has failed to help people in Rocklea. He has failed to listen to the local Councillor out there, and he has attacked the local Councillor for doing his job here today. It is shameful behaviour, and he’s had the praetorian guard of the Young Liberals, who are now in their 30s and 40s, standing up, running interference, and that is shameful. Get on with your job and help people. That is what you are here for, not to spend time attacking Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Now, I say this because I still talk to the residents of Rocklea, who are in my ward on a pretty regular basis. I know that the residents of Councillor GRIFFITHS’ wards are hurting very badly. I have seen it firsthand myself. This Council needs to do more, and in a flood, you have to do things that you don’t like, LORD MAYOR—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: —but you must do them.

Chair: Point of order to you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Relevance to the LORD MAYOR meeting with a resident on a specific address.

Chair: Thank you. Noted, Councillor—DEPUTY MAYOR.

Please, Councillor JOHNSTON, there’s a specific motion before us. Could you address that, please?

Councillor JOHNSTON: In a flood, you have to do things, LORD MAYOR, that you don’t want to do or you don’t like doing, but you have to do them. Now, the LORD MAYOR has made it very clear here that he doesn’t really want to do this. He thinks it’s all political, but it’s not. It’s about helping people. It’s about making sure that this Council addresses the needs of Rocklea and the person who knows Rocklea the best is the local Councillor. The LORD MAYOR again today has said he does not want to speak to him, he does not want to hear from him, and has personally attacked him.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Not good enough.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your points of misrepresentation.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, there were two points. First of all, the claim that I attacked Rocklea residents. I’ve never done any such thing. In fact, I said that we wanted to help them. Secondly, Councillor JOHNSTON said that apparently, I’d visited a person called Mr Purcell and brought the media along. This was Mud Army Day, and like a whole lot of other people, I had spent hours and hours helping Mr Purcell clean out his shed of all the flood damaged materials. I didn’t bring the media along. I simply helped Mr Purcell.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Oh, Councillor JOHNSTON.

LORD MAYOR: I simply helped Mr Purcell gather Mud Army volunteers—

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order, Chair. It’s supposed to be a succinct point of misrepresentation, not a debate.

Chair: Yes, it is.

LORD MAYOR, I ask you to—

LORD MAYOR: —and I certainly didn’t bring the media along.

Chair: Thank you, noted.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: Thanks, Chair. I rise to speak to the motion, and I guess I just wanted to highlight that all of us have been through a pretty rough time over the past few weeks, and we’re all quite stressed and prone to thinking the worst of each other. I guess I just wanted to encourage all Councillors to show a bit of care and kindness. I do support this motion. I think it’s quite reasonable that a Councillor whose ward has just experienced quite severe flooding would want to meet and would expect to be able to meet with the LORD MAYOR.

I often encounter residents who are really surprised at how hard it is for Councillors like myself or Councillor GRIFFITHS to get a meeting with the Mayor, and I know how busy the Mayor is, but we are elected representatives and part of our job is to provide advice to the Mayor about the needs of our constituencies. Residents expect—they say to me, Jono, can’t you just go and get a meeting with the Mayor? They just assume, and that’s kind of what I’d assumed, as well, before I got elected. I thought, all right, if I can convince tens of thousands of people to vote for me, the Mayor will be up for having a catch-up once in a while. Apparently not, and I think that’s why this motion—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor SRI: I’ll take the interjection. The Mayor has pointed out that we do get to meet here in this Chamber all together every Tuesday and that’s true, although I would note that the Mayor is often absent for prolonged periods of the meeting. I don’t say that as an attack. It’s a simple matter of fact that the Mayor doesn’t stay for the whole meeting, and the Mayor also routinely refuses to take questions while he’s speaking during the meeting. So, unlike one-on-one discussions or small group discussions, this is not necessarily a place of genuine dialogue.

So, I appreciate that the LORD MAYOR is busy, but LORD MAYOR—through you, Chair—there are opportunities for further dialogue and collaboration and cooperation across the Chamber. I do think it would be helpful sometimes if you could make more time to meet with Councillors individually. Certainly, there are lots of issues that I’ve felt haven’t been addressed which could have been addressed through more constructive dialogue and direct discussion.

I do appreciate—through you, Chair—LORD MAYOR, your sensitivity on this matter. I can see that you’ve been personally hurt by some of the comments in the Chamber and I can see that other Councillors have also been hurt by things that the Mayor has said. So, like I said at the start, I think it’s important that we all show a bit more compassion and patience with each other, but—through you, Chair—to the LORD MAYOR, when we’ve come through a flooding event like this and hundreds of residents have lost homes and had major property damage, I think it is a baseline and very reasonable expectation of Councillors in flood‑affected neighbourhoods that the Mayor would make time to meet with them individually.

That’s a very simple sign of respect, and I appreciate the Mayor doesn’t think other Councillors have shown him respect, but it is a two-way street and sometimes you do have to take the higher ground. I would love to meet with the Mayor, as well, to talk in detail about the flooding impacts on my ward and the issues that my residents are still dealing with. I don’t have the opportunity to raise those issues in detail here in the Chamber because we are quite constrained about what we can talk to. The Chair regularly draws us back to the substance of the motion, *et cetera*, so we don’t have a wide-ranging opportunity to talk about every single issue we wish to raise with the Mayor.

We also get frustrated because sometimes, written correspondence with the Mayor can be quite slow. So, I do think it’s important that the Mayor takes the time to meet with Councillors of flood-affected neighbourhoods. He has the time to meet with lots of people. I see that he makes time to meet with certain stakeholders and certain industry groups a lot more often than with others, and I do think it would be good for the Mayor to spread his time around a little bit more evenly and recognise that the thousands of residents in Moorooka Ward deserve to have their elected representative be given some face time with the Mayor.

I don’t think that’s an unreasonable request, and I think the decisions that the Mayor makes would be of a higher quality, they would be better decisions, if he took the time to hear more directly from local elected representatives. He is depriving himself of access to important information and insight by not meeting with Councillor GRIFFITHS on this matter. I can see that there’s a lot of party politics at play. I’m not going to wade into that territory, but as a matter of common sense, Councillor GRIFFITHS clearly has relevant information that would be useful for the Mayor to consider in deciding how best to support the recovery and future resilience of this city.

Yes, as a matter of common sense, it’s more efficient for the Mayor to have that conversation directly with Councillor GRIFFITHS, where they can ask each other questions, where they can build trust, where they can from constructive dialogue rather than back-and-forth arguments over—within this public Chamber or long and inefficient email correspondence, neither of which are optimal forms of discussion and negotiation. So, I once again firmly support this motion, and I’m glad to hear that the Mayor is going to meet with the resident themselves, but I think it would be a bare minimum, it would be a very small but important step for the Mayor to at least make time to meet with Councillor GRIFFITHS one-on-one.

Like I said, I’m surprised that the Mayor hasn’t yet been willing to meet with me either. I’ll wait my turn. I think probably some of the other wards have been more severely affected by flooding than mine, but I’ve got quite a few residents in my electorate who are homeless now and I would really like to meet with the Mayor to discuss what we’ll be doing to support those residents going forward. The fact that the Mayor hasn’t been willing to meet is, I think, quite disappointing.

I know that I found it easier to get meetings with the previous Mayor, Graham Quirk, than I have with Councillor SCHRINNER, and I hope that, going forward, the Mayor will make more time to meet with Labor, Green, and Independent Councillors, because otherwise our only avenue to raise issues is in these open public meetings, and I think that does undermine the tone of discourse and does contribute to a more adversarial political environment, because we can’t have direct conversations with the Mayor. We’re forced to raise stuff here in the Chamber which is then experienced as party politicking.

Any time I raise a negative issue in this Chamber, it’s experienced as an attack by the LNP, even though I’m just trying to raise an issue in good faith and I don’t have other avenues to raise it. So—through you, Chair—to the LORD MAYOR, please just meet with Councillors. We have useful insights. Just because we’re not from the same political party as you, doesn’t mean we don’t have something positive to contribute to the city.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor SRI.

Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS, the motion as I’ve taken it and with your agreement earlier, I believe it is that the LORD MAYOR meet with you to meet a resident of Galah Street, Rocklea, by 28 March to discuss flooding.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes.

Chair: That’s—okay, you have summing up—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Sorry, it’s flooding and the Home Resilience program.

Chair: Well, there was a long preamble and that was what I read out as the motion when we started the debate.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Well, it was both of them.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: So, we’ll either take this as the motion or ask you to send through what—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Take this as the motion, but I did say Home Resilience, too, and it’s in the email, but anyway, I mean, they can discuss what they like to discuss, yes.

Chair: So, the motion is, would the LORD MAYOR and yourself meet with a resident of Galah Street, Rocklea, by 28 March to discuss flooding?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes.

Chair: Okay. You have summing up opportunity.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, so thank you, and thank you to those Councillors who spoke. What we’re doing by this motion is trying to solve a problem out at Rocklea, a reoccurring problem that I thought we were on the way to resolving in 2011 when there was an increase in funding for the Buyback program, and I actually at that time called for money to be put aside to assist those residents who didn’t want to sell, but assist them to raise their homes. Council has since brought that program in.

What I and the residents of Rocklea, who are constantly going through this problem, want is a long-term solution to it and part of that long-term solution is having the LORD MAYOR out there with me so that he can see what residents are going through and so that he can understand it. Certainly, in the past, Campbell Newman has been out there and I think Graham Quirk had been out there as Mayors, and they haven’t been afraid to meet with me and meet with residents. We have seen implementation of some programs in Council such as the Buyback program.

So, I’m disappointed that the LORD MAYOR doesn’t want to talk to me. I’m disappointed that the LORD MAYOR sees me as so political. That is my job—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —you know, and I do it well, and he’d be criticising me if I didn’t do it well.

Chair: Councillor HAMMOND.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: That’s my job. My job is to get results for my community, and if he won’t talk to me, then I have to use every means possible to show up what you’re doing. So, if you want to work with me and get resolutions for these residents that I represent, that I got voted for, that I got 70% of the vote for, then you need to actually be involved in talking to me. I am—I have been disappointed with the way Council has treated Rocklea. We’ve had no bins for six days, no food bins, while other wards had them in two days. We have had hundreds of trucks of waste dumped next to a park at Acacia Ridge and it wasn’t raised with me. We haven’t been able to get road closures in Rocklea.

So many things, we haven’t been able to be listened to, but I am at least pleased that the LORD MAYOR will come out and meet with this resident, and I would ask the LORD MAYOR to reconsider because I would like to be there at that meeting, as well, and the resident has asked that I’m at that meeting, as well. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

The motion before us is that the LORD MAYOR and Councillor GRIFFITHS meet with a resident in Galah Street by 28 March to discuss flooding.

The Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **lost** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Jared CASSIDY and Charles STRUNK immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **lost.**

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Peter CUMMING, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Jonathan SRI and Nicole JOHNSTON.

NOES: 18 - The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Peter MATIC, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee report.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Oh, sorry, that ends Question Time, to be formal.

LORD MAYOR, Establishment and Coordination Committee report of 7 March 2022.

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### ESTABLISHMENT AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Right Honourable, the LORD MAYOR (Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER), Chair of the Establishment and Coordination Committee, moved, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor Krista ADAMS), that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 7 March 2022, be adopted.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Before I move on to other items, I just wanted to talk about the lighting up of Council assets, which has continued on despite other challenges that our city is facing. Last night, the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge, City Hall, and Reddacliff Place and the Tropical Dome at Mt Coot-tha were lit up in yellow to support Endo Enlightened campaign. This campaign aims to increase awareness of endometriosis, and endo is an extremely common disease with one in nine women being affected by the disease. Obviously, we support further public acknowledgement and awareness of this disease, and support for people that are suffering from it.

Tonight, City Hall will be lit up in green for Coeliac Awareness Week.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Coeliac, sorry, Coeliac Awareness Week.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Yeah, it has been a long—Coeliac Awareness Week. Currently, 80% of people with coeliac disease remain undiagnosed, and the aim of the Awareness Week is to increase diagnosis rates among the population. On Wednesday, the Story Bridge and Victoria Bridge will be lit up in red, white, and blue to celebrate Alliance Française, which is the alliance, global network of French language and cultural centres and organisations in 132 countries. On Thursday, what is it? St Patrick’s Day.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: St Patrick’s Day, and I saw that the parade occurred on the weekend through Brisbane. Unfortunately, I couldn’t get there to be part of it due to—it was on Saturday, was it? Was it Saturday?

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Oh, guess what? I was in Rocklea.

*Councillors interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: I was in Rocklea, but no, apparently, according to the local Councillor, I don’t know where Rocklea is. I’ve never been there. Look, St Patrick’s Day and the local Irish community are just fantastic. They’re such a great part of our local community and one of the most vibrant parts of our local community, and certainly, they have been out there on the weekend celebrating and they will continue to celebrate through Thursday and beyond.

This Friday is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. To mark this day, all of our Council assets will be lit up in orange. On Saturday night, it’s the annual Dance for Daniel ball, and everyone will be aware of the red colour that’s synonymous with Dance for Daniel ball and the Daniel Morecambe Foundation, so we’re lighting up the assets in red. On Sunday, the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge, and Reddacliff Place will be lit up in red again, but this time for Red Bow Month. Red Bow Month raises awareness for people living with muscular dystrophy, lighting up the assets to help raise awareness of this disease.

What we just witnessed when it came to that motion from Councillor GRIFFITHS was really incredibly disappointing. It is—you know, if Councillor GRIFFITHS was genuine, he would have approached me directly about this issue and not in a public forum, because not only did Councillor GRIFFITHS do it in this political way, but he had also previously appeared in an article on the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) with this resident where he had quite clearly, it appears, fed the resident misinformation. It seemed the resident was unaware that this particular house was previously—we attempted to purchase it through our flood buyback scheme, that same house.

So, we were genuinely keen to do something about that specific property, and I remain confident that we can do something to help properties like this. Whether it is a renewed Flood Buyback program or whether it is a Flood Resilient Homes program, I believe that both of those things have some merit and I’m, you know, looking forward to working with the other levels of government to make sure that we can really gear up the efforts. There’s things that we can do as a Council, but there’s so much more that we can do with State and Federal support, and I know that.

It is really positive that, for the first time in a decade, the State Government is now talking about a buyback scheme, a flood buyback scheme, because after the 2011 flood, when the recommendations were that there should be three levels of government funding this scheme, we were the only ones doing it. We were the only ones doing it, and so now it is positive that we have other levels of government talking about this, because in the end, the aim should not be about scoring some political points, it should be about getting the right outcomes here.

That’s what I am determined to do, but unfortunately, Councillor GRIFFITHS, in all of my dealings with him and everything I’ve seen in the time that I’ve been a Councillor, you cannot work with him.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: You just can’t work with him. He politicises everything. I’ve seen it time and time again. Neighbourhood plans—

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: —every local issue, he just politicises everything and it’s incredibly disappointing. So, I’ll work with his residents, but he’s made it clear that he’s not interested in working with the Lord Mayor of the day, and that’s not just me. That was Campbell Newman, that was Graham Quirk. A leopard doesn’t change its spots, unfortunately, and so it is disappointing, but I accept it is what it is. So if he doesn’t want to work constructively together, which all of his actions would indicate in the past to be the MO (*modus operandi*), then I’ll work with his residents instead, because we do want to get better outcomes here.

In this case, it is a situation where there’s a definite need there. There is a definite need. I was also in Rocklea, as well, on Sunday because I’ve been very—not only have I been out visiting the Council crews, but also in any downtime I’ve had with the family, unfortunately, my kids have had to jump into the van and to flood‑affected areas, and we’ve been doing that consistently, not only on a sort of, I guess, work basis, but also off the clock, as well, so to speak.

So, whether it’s going into Councillor JOHNSTON’s ward, Councillor GRIFFITHS’ ward, Councillor HUTTON’s ward, Councillor MACKAY’s ward, Councillor WINES’ ward, I’ve been getting around as far and as wide as possible, even to Councillor CASSIDY’s ward on the weekend, in fact, and we saw the good progress of the clean-up that has been occurring out there. So, I know the different parts of the city that have been impacted. I’ve seen it with my own eyes. I’ve been in the streets myself and I’ve talked to a whole lot of residents right across the city. We want to get better outcomes here, but the way to do that is not to play political games. It’s not to move politically motivated motions. So, it is really disappointing, but unfortunately, I’m not surprised.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Item A is the East Bank Flood Resilience project at Mount Crosby. It’s a project managed by Seqwater. Now, Councillors would be aware, more than likely, that the dams were previously controlled by councils and then it was the State Government in the millennium drought that created a new entity called Seqwater and removed the dams from Council control and put them into State control in a State Government agency called Seqwater. So, Seqwater manages all of the dams across South East Queensland, as well as the water grid, as well, and they are effectively the bulk water supplier to South East Queensland.

This submission facilitates the construction of a new two-lane bridge over the Brisbane River to replace the existing one-lane weir bridge on the site. In addition to this, it facilitates the construction of a brand-new kindergarten, as well, and the relocation of a worker’s cottage within the area. All of these assets will be transferred into Council ownership once complete. Seqwater undertook a review of the flood resilience of its assets in Mount Crosby, and the study identified a number of central assets that needed to be relocated or refurbished to reduce risk, at the risk of them being damaged by flood.

The design of the new bridge considers the challenging topography of the site and will be approximately three metres higher than the existing weir bridge which provides increased flood immunity. It will also be able to withstand far larger and heavier vehicles than the existing weir bridge can. In addition to this, the local C&K kindy, which is close to the weir, will be moved to a brand-new, custom-built facility further away from the substation. This means that, on the completion of works, the former C&K kindy site will be used as part of Council’s hall portfolio for short-term lease by community groups and individuals.

Chair: LORD MAYOR, your time has expired.

**512/2021-22**

At that point, the LORD MAYOR was granted an extension of time on the motion of the DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS.

Chair: LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: Seqwater anticipates awarding the tender for construction at the end of the month, so good outcome. Item B, look, this is one when you read the headline, you immediately think, what is going on here? It’s quite an unusual submission to be coming through, but as you’ll see shortly, it’s been requested by the community and it’s something that we need to consider. So, item B relates to the exhumation of human remains from Council-owned land used for cemetery purposes.

Now, occasionally, Council receives requests from residents asking that a family member who is currently buried in one of our cemeteries be exhumed from the ground and buried elsewhere. So, this is often about family relocation and essentially having a family gravesite, moving someone from one place to another, essentially. So, this is something that we do get requests for from time to time from the community, and they can be made for a range of reasons, including cultural and religious reasons, also families wanting to have their families together in one place after death.

Council manages 12 cemeteries across Brisbane. Ten of these, we are the trustee of land owned by the State, and two we own outright, being Mount Gravatt and Pinnaroo in Bridgeman Downs. Council currently has delegations in place to approve exhumation requests on land that Council holds in trust from the State. However, in the other situations, which is the land we own outright, no such delegation exists, and so that’s effectively what we’re asking for today. That would then make it consistent with the other cemeteries, so that we have the one set of arrangements in place for all cemeteries.

So, on 22 November 2021, Cemeteries received a request for an exhumation in Mount Gravatt Cemetery. The request was made by a family who regret their previous burial choice and planned to exhume and rebury their loved one to better meet their religious and cultural position. As mentioned, Council is the owner of the cemetery land and there is no delegation available to deal with this situation, so with the support of Councillors, we’ll be able to deal with this situation. Unfortunately, it’s taken some time to get to this point, but hopefully after today, we can have it resolved and then move forward in a consistent way in all of our cemeteries.

Chair: Thank you, LORD MAYOR.

Further speakers? Further speakers?

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Chair. I just rise to speak on item A, which is the East Bank Flood Resilience project at Mount Crosby in conjunction with Seqwater. The LORD MAYOR rightly identified that there’s a—this submission covers the construction of a two-lane bridge over the river at the Mount Crosby Weir. There is demand for a two-way crossing. At the moment, there is only a single lane with a load limit of nine tonnes. Demand for use in that area for a range of reasons requires two lanes and an increase in the ability for heavier vehicles and for freight to use that particular location.

Seqwater did undertake a review of the flood resilience of those assets at Mount Crosby after the 2011 floods. The study was completed in 2017, and a number of assets had to be renewed or relocated, and this is one of the main ones. The items also include existing electrical substations will be moved to a less flood-prone area. A masterplan was developed with a heads of agreement was entered into between Council and Seqwater in 2018. Seqwater submitted a development application for a masterplan to Council in the same year.

An approval to proceed has been granted. The masterplan includes a number of new and upgraded assets that will be funded by Seqwater. That’s an important element that should be of interest to Councillors, that Seqwater as part of their masterplan will be upgrading the assets through their funding, and once completed will be transferred to Council. So, those items will be transferred to Council on completion after Seqwater has upgraded them. That—I have more detail on that bridge I was discussing earlier, a two-lane bridge.

It takes into account what is challenging topography in that area over the river, and is approximately three metres higher than the existing weir bridge which will provide increased flood immunity. Now, this has been in discussion with Council for, obviously, some years and takes a particular relevance at this time. Why would we be so interested in these sorts of things? It also allows western suburbs people an alternative route at certain times during these sorts of events. People in the western suburbs were among the first to be isolated in the city.

It also provides an alternative to nearby Colleges Crossing which basically goes through river level. The bridge will be designed to be inundated in large and extreme weather but be able to be reopened as soon as floodwaters pass. Recent experience has shown that we can rely on our engineers to be able to provide that level of construction to be able to survive significant rain events and significant flooding events.

The new weightbearing capacity for the bridge will be 42.5 tonnes and the new bridge will cater for vehicular traffic. The weir will still be in use and will be able to cater for both pedestrians and cyclists. The weir will remain in the ownership of Seqwater. I would also like to note that on 11 March of this year, Seqwater made a statement that the Mount Crosby Weir Bridge is temporarily closed as a result of the weather event.

SEQ (South East Queensland) Chief Operating Officer Stuart Cassie said the bridge was inundated by water during the event and visible inspections had identified significant damage to the deck surface and guard rails. Safety is our top priority. We have closed the bridge whilst engineering assessments are undertaken, Mr Cassidy said. We are arranging for a qualified third-party engineer to attend site and assess the damage and once this is completed, we will update the community.

I continue the quote: we acknowledge the closure will inconvenience local residents and we thank them for their understanding while we undertake assessments and ensure their safety. Mr Cassie said Seqwater would provide a further update once the assessments on the bridge were completed. The transfer includes a number of other assets, not only the bridge but also the hall and a kindergarten, all of which will be upgraded before the transfer to Council.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on both of these items. Item A, as we just heard, is the plan to upgrade the Mount Crosby Weir Bridge. This has been significantly damaged in the recent floods. The communities of Moggill, Bellbowrie, Anstead, Karana Downs, Kholo, and Mount Crosby were all cut off completely and isolated during the most recent floods.

All five routes out of this area were cut by river and creek flooding. It was one of the tens of thousands of residents who lived there needed emergency help and would have to be airlifted to hospital because obviously, these roads are not floodproof. Food and water was also in desperately short supply by the end of that as well and this community was cut off during the 2011 floods.

Now, the LNP’s been in charge of the budget here for the last 18 years in this Council Chamber and we’re only talking about these upgrades. Council’s an integral partner in this project and in floodproofing this area because we’ll be accepting the roadworks and the bridge works—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor ADERMANN, please.

Councillor CASSIDY: You’ll get your turn, don’t worry. So, the need to upgrade this river crossing and river crossings in this area was evident after 2011 but this LNP Administration has been sitting on their hands and continued on with business as usual (BAU). So, we didn’t hear them out there banging the drum and I don’t recall any big soaring speeches by Councillor ADERMANN here in his time or the Councillors before him about the need for this work and knowing that it’s been needed well and truly for the last decade or more, but we’re glad that Seqwater has identified that this will be fast tracked and Council will finally accept the responsibility to maintain these roads out there.

But those communities certainly deserve better and so the story out in those leafy western suburbs is the same story, Chair, in the outer northern suburbs, in the outer southern suburbs or the outer eastern suburbs: they’re missing out. They’re missing out under this LNP Administration, who is so focused on the inner city projects and so focused on those big glitzy things that they can put on the glossy brochures and shove into people’s letterboxes, but instead of delivering the basics out in the suburbs.

So, it is about time this LNP Council got serious about floodproofing our communities, not just here out in the western suburbs but right across the outer suburbs of this city.

Clause B is the exhumation of human remains from Council-owned land used for cemetery purposes. This item is essentially streamlining the process for families who need to relocate their loved ones to another resting place and we certainly think there should be a delegation in place and this shouldn’t be something that needs to be debated each and every time it comes up, so we’ll support this item today.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor ADERMANN.

Councillor ADERMANN: Yes, thank you, Chair. I rise to speak on item A, the East Bank Flood Resilience Project at Mount Crosby in my ward. The Mount Crosby water treatment plants are a critical part of the Seqwater grid and supply about 50% of South East Queensland’s drinking water, including Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan. The East Bank Flood Resilience Program involves a number of improvements to reduce asset and flood risks to essential bulk water infrastructure at the historic Mount Crosby East Bank Precinct.

Seqwater recently awarded the construction contract for the program’s civil and enabling works to McIlwain Civil Engineering. That contract includes earthworks and the construction of retaining walls, a substation pad and a sealed road to the substation. The eastern access road will be upgraded, including conduit installation and reconfiguring of the six-way intersection. Once complete, Energex will then construct a new substation.

This project will reduce flood risks to critical water infrastructure at the East Bank Precinct by preparing for the construction of a modern electrical substation on higher ground. During that works period, the C&K Mount Crosby Community Kindergarten will continue to operate as normal. Chair, it’s timely, given the events of the past two weeks, to stress the importance of relocating the source of power to the water treatment plants to higher ground.

I can’t begin to contemplate the consequences to our water supply had it gone under and been lost at this plant two weeks ago. Seqwater is to be commended for implementing its east bank flood resilience master plan. It will safeguard essential infrastructure, provide certainty about the facility’s ongoing maintenance and upgrade the bulk water storage facilities at Mount Crosby.

The features of the master plan include the location of a new pump station and substation for land above the one per 10,000 AEP (annual exceedance probability) flood level, a new high voltage power switch room, the relocation of the historic drayman’s cottages to near the community hall, specifically for community use, and the relocation of the Mount Crosby childcare centre away from the utility installation.

But Chair, I’ve left the best until last and as both the LORD MAYOR and Councillor WINES have mentioned, that is the construction of a new two-lane, more flood resilient road bridge across the Brisbane River. As I outlined last week, the Karana Downs and Mount Crosby communities were isolated for four days, no way in and no way out, and to Councillor CASSIDY’s point on that, Chair, access was cut on Mount Crosby Road and Moggill Road, both State-owned roads.

The existing bridge went under and when the waters receded, there appeared to be considerable damage to the structure. Its ability to take vehicular traffic again will be determined over the coming days, but you have to wonder whether its days as a car bridge are numbered, which makes the new bridge an even greater priority now. The estimated cost of the bridge and connecting roadworks is $20 million, which will be funded by Seqwater with Council eventually taking over the responsibility for its ongoing maintenance.

The construction of this bridge will play a key role in providing greater access in and out of that part of my ward during flooding. Another key component that Councillor WINES alluded to is upgrading Colleges Crossing, which is in the Ipswich Local Government Area.

The Labor Member for Ipswich West should be telling his colleague, the Minister for Transport, that the time for talking is now over and that residents of the outer western suburbs want to see some action on traffic solution at Colleges Crossing and soon. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to enter the debate on item B, the exhumation of human remains from Council-owned land used for cemetery purposes, Mr Chair, through you, and I appreciate the Leader of the Opposition indicating support for this because as we know these sorts of requests don’t happen very often but for it to have to come to full Council is really something that could be distressing for families.

The current request was of course made on 22 November 2021 and so the reason that it is here before us today is that that request did need to come to Council, but also it is the ability for us to—for this submission seek to establish the delegation with the CEO which will align the approval process with land held in trust and ensure a more expedient response to such sensitive customer requests.

So, I think I don’t probably need to say much more than that. I do appreciate the support from the Opposition on this item and I will leave it at that. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillors. We now move to—oh, LORD MAYOR’s not here, no summing up.

DEPUTY MAYOR, do you want to do any summing up?

So, we now move to the vote on this item.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Establishment and Coordination Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Adrian Schrinner) (Chair); Deputy Mayor (Councillor Krista Adams) (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Adam Allan, Fiona Cunningham, Tracy Davis, Vicki Howard, Kim Marx, Ryan Murphy, and Andrew Wines.

#### A EAST BANK FLOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT AT MOUNT CROSBY - SEQWATER

**109/590/785/187**

**513/2021-22**

1. The Divisional Manager, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the information below.

2. On 23 July 2018, Seqwater and Council entered into a Heads of Agreement, Relocation of Mount Crosby East Bank Pump Station relating to the East Bank Flood Resilience Project (refer Attachment B, submitted on file). The project scope of works was developed by Seqwater in response to a review following the 2011 Brisbane River floods and the potential risk to the water supply for South‑East Queensland should a similar event occur.

3. The project will provide a number of new assets to Council on completion, which include:

- A new two-lane bridge over the Brisbane River replacing the existing two-way one‑lane weir bridge

- A new Kindergarten at Stumer’s Road Reserve Park to replace the existing Council‑leased site, which is adjacent to the new electrical substation

- Minor refurbishment of the existing Kindergarten to be used as part of Council’s Community Hall’s portfolio on completion

- Potential relocation of an existing heritage cottage ‘Drayman’s Cottage’ to a site next to the existing Kindergarten.

4. The existing two-way, one-lane weir bridge that is owned and maintained by Seqwater at Allawah Road, Mount Crosby is in poor condition and is at risk of being closed to transport which would cause disruptions to the local community. The alternative road routes include Colleges Crossing which has low flood immunity, or Kholo Bridge which would require a significant detour. In addition to the condition of the weir bridge, recent monitoring by Seqwater has highlighted safety concerns due to motorists using excessive speed.

5. Due to these concerns, Seqwater have brought forward the replacement of the weir bridge and are assessing tenders for works with a view to award a tender in late March 2022. The estimated cost of the bridge and connecting road works is $20 million which will be funded completely by Seqwater, with maintenance responsibility transferring to Council on completion of a 12‑month defect liability period post practical completion. Council will then be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the bridge.

6. Council technical officers have been involved in the design review of the proposed bridge to ensure it meets Council’s whole of life requirements. Ongoing maintenance funding for the new bridge is not covered by the approved budget and will be sought as part of a future budget process, estimated at approximately 1% of the value of the bridge per year for the life of the bridge (100 years).

7. The new bridge will significantly improve flood immunity in the area and improve safety for users by reducing the likelihood of head-on collisions and including barrier rails that comply with a faster speed environment.

8. The New Kindergarten Deed and the relocation of the Drayman’s Cottage referenced in the Coordination Deed are still in negotiation between the parties and will be submitted to E&C separately for endorsement once negotiations have been finalised.

9. The Divisional Manager, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVE AS PER THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A  
Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A COORDINATION DEED AND A NEW BRIDGE AND CONNECTION ROAD AGREEMENT WITH SEQWATER TO ASSIST IN FACILITATING THE EAST BANK FLOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT AT MOUNT CROSBY**

As Council:

1. has entered into a Heads of Agreement with Seqwater to facilitate the master plan of works at Mount Crosby to improve the flood resilience of critical water infrastructure
2. has approved a Development Application for the Master Plan of works developed by Seqwater
3. has been consulted and reviewed design plans relating to assets to be transferred to Council on completion of works
4. has assessed the benefits of accepting the new bridge which include continued access for users and residents with improved flood immunity during disaster events

then Council:

1. resolves to enter into a Coordination Deed and a New Bridge and Connection Road Agreement with Seqwater to assist in facilitating the East Bank Flood Resilience Project at Mount Crosby.

**ADOPTED**

#### B EXHUMATION OF HUMAN REMAINS FROM COUNCIL-OWNED LAND USED FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES

**112/500/116/25**

**514/2021-22**

11. The Divisional Manager, Lifestyle and Community Services, provided the information below.

12. Council receives periodic applications from burial rights holders and family members to exhume the human remains of their loved ones buried in Council’s cemeteries.

13. Council manages 12 cemeteries across Brisbane, either as the owner of the land or as trustee of land owned by State of Queensland (the State).

14. Where Council is the trustee of land owned by the State for cemetery purposes, exhumations of human remains are authorised under section 83 of the *Land Act 1994* (the Act). That power to approve exhumations of human remains on State-owned land has been delegated to Council by virtue of the Land Act (Ministerial) Delegation Local Government (No 1) 2013 and in line with the Queensland Government’s Department of Resources’ Operational policy for Cemeteries Exhumation (SLM/2013/433). Council has delegated that same power to the Chief Executive Officer.

15. If a cemetery is located on Council-owned land, the Act has no application.

16. The following parcels of land in cemeteries are Council owned.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cemetery** | **Lot/Plan** |
| Mt Gravatt Cemetery | L3 SP137378 |
| Pinnaroo Cemetery | L44 SP227433 |
| L5 SP227433 |
| L6 SP227433 |
| L6 SP222223 |
| L7 SP222223 |

17. There is currently no delegation for exhumation of human remains on Council-owned land and decisions must be obtained from Council in each instance, which can often cause further distress to customers wanting to move their loved ones to another resting place. Establishing a delegation will align the approval process with land held in trust and ensure a more expedient response to such sensitive customer requests.

18. The Divisional Manager, Lifestyle and Community Services, provided the following recommendation and the Committee agreed.

19. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL RESOLVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A**, hereunder.

**Attachment A  
Draft Resolution**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO DELEGATE POWERS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN RELATION TO THE EXHUMATION OF HUMAN REMAINS FROM COUNCIL-OWNED LAND USED FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES**

As Council:

(i) may delegate powers to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to section 238 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010,*

then Council:

(i) delegates the power to the Chief Executive Officer under section 242 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* to approve the exhumation of human remains from Council-owned land used for cemeterypurposes, in accordance with the General Conditions set out in Attachment B (submitted on file).

**ADOPTED**

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, the Economic Development and Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee report for 1 March meeting.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE

The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 March 2022, be adopted.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Just for an update, don’t forget that the Business Hub is still alive and kicking and there to support your local businesses, particularly through this flood recovery. Tomorrow there is an SEQ flood recovery support to get back to business. It’s being held from 9am to 11am. Generate demand for your business, not leads, which is on Thursday from nine until 11, and then The art of building a premium brand with visual content, which we talked a bit about today in Committee, next Tuesday from nine until 11.

We got some fantastic feedback too from the International Women’s Event Panel which was without doubt the best they have ever seen, is one of the feedbacks, so well done to Beta on that. There were three women who presented and they were both inspirational and impressive, came from another business.

There’s also some comments here about the mentoring that continue to be a strongly advised by anybody who needs some support in business, but those who’ve been through the program meeting with—and I won’t name the name of the mentor—Was a fantastic opportunity, gained valuable insight into my business endeavours. He was able to offer me invaluable advice surrounding both my initial questions and also the operations of my business as a whole.

So, please, Councillors, pass this on to your businesses, particularly if they have some extra need for help coming out of the floods, if they were affected, or, even if they weren’t physically affected, maybe it’s affected whatever their business model is and they need some help going forward on that as well.

As I said last week, the Business Hub and the Nundah Village hub as well are nice and busy and I think Mr—said this morning, busiest day in the Nundah Hub last Friday with a lot of businesses coming in there to use the spaces as their working spaces as they need to recover from the floods as well. So, please make sure you let your businesses know. Excuse me, Mr Chair.

The Committee presentation last week was on the Virtus Oceania Games. They are being held here in Brisbane in October 2022. This is the world’s largest elite sports event for athletes with an intellectual impairment, so we are very excited to bring this back to Brisbane in November, welcoming up to 1,000 elite athletes and officials from New Zealand, Asia, and the Pacific nations.

In 2019 we demonstrated our inclusivity, accessibility and warmth by having a friendly atmosphere to all the elite athletes that joined us during the very successful INAS (International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability) Global Games and this is the same company, new iteration, now called Virtus. So, they announced the rebrand of Virtus Games and we are very, very proud to be the host of this elite competition from around Asia and the Pacific, a little bit more global this year as well.

We’ve just finalised the funding agreement which provides financial support as well as in-kind support to help coordinate and promote the event. The Federal Government has also committed to supporting the Games with an investment of nearly $2 million and we’re yet to hear if the Queensland Government will come on board too; hopefully they will, particularly through Stadiums Queensland.

Off the back of being confirmed of the host of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we really are working hard to cement our position as the national capital for major sporting events. I think the offices involved in coordinating this event alongside Sports Inclusion Australia, it’s going to be a fantastic sporting event to be involved in. We’re grateful for the community and I will be getting you to help me spread the word as we get closer to October as well. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Further speakers? No further speakers.

We now put this motion to the vote.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Krista Adams (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sarah Hutton (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Jared Cassidy, Kara Cook and Steven Huang.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – VIRTUS OCEANIA ASIA GAMES

**515/2021-22**

1. The Strategy and Project Coordinator Manager, Brisbane 2032 Host City Office, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on Virtus Oceania Asia Games. She provided the information below.

2. The Virtus Oceania Asia Games is a global organisation that governs, advocates, organises and promotes elite sport for athletes with an intellectual impairment. The Virtus Oceania Asia Games was formed in 1986, and now has a membership of more than 500,000 athletes from more than 90 nations. The Virtus Oceania Asia Games is recognised as an international organisation of sport for people with a disability and is the largest elite sporting event for athletes with an intellectual impairment.

3. The Virtus Oceania Asia Games 2022 is hosted by Sport Inclusion Australia (SIA) and will be held in Brisbane from 5 – 12 November 2022. Up to 1,000 athletes plus officials, family and friends from across Asia and Oceania regions are expected to attend. There will be between seven and ten core sports, and two to three demonstration sports. Paralympic classification will be applied for athletics, swimming and table tennis.

4. Established in 1986, SIA is a national sporting organisation which assists with the inclusion of people with an intellectual disability into the mainstream community using sport as the medium. SIA has worked within the Australian sporting sector with outstanding success. Increasing numbers of sporting organisations and clubs are taking responsibility for inclusion with the focus on ability and based on social inclusion principles.

5. SIA approached Council regarding sponsorship of the Oceania Asia Games 2022. The partnership agreement supports the delivery of a successful international event that offers more to see and do whilst promoting the city’s reputation as an accessible and inclusive city. Further, the agreement ensures the games has a meaningful legacy for Virtus, Brisbane 2032, Council, Brisbane residents and visitors. Council has agreed to provision of $500,000 in cash sponsorship and $600,000 of in-kind support. The Committee was shown a table of the sporting events which will be undertaken across the various venues and the associated Games Hub.

6. The 2032 Legacy Runway will build capability for Brisbane 2032 as a host city of a major international sporting and inclusive event and will ensure Council’s facilities and infrastructure are easily accessible to people with a disability. Further, this will build partnerships and networks across Government and other agencies and provide an understanding of technologies and services required to support similar events in the future. The runway will form partnerships to pilot opportunities to improve customer experiences and build a volunteer network for the city.

7. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Strategy and Project Coordinator Manager for her informative presentation.

8. **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, the report of 8 March from your Committee, please.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE

The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 8 March 2022, be adopted.

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you. The Committee report for last week was the sitrep (situation report) at the time after we came out the back, obviously, of a week and a half of the devastating flood events. I very clearly explained to the Committee the role of the City Office of Analytics in supporting the LDCC, particularly in garnering the information required as it came through the LDCC for the coordination of the Mud Army.

Having been there on the ground 11 years ago, I wasn’t quite ready, I think, as anybody was, to experience a second Mud Army as well, but I can assure you the support that was done through the Analytics and the technical advantages we had this time with the advancement that we have with our City Office of Analytics was absolutely without doubt something that made the Mud Army work so well on the Saturday morning as well.

For the coordination team that were in there, Tash Tobias and the team, it was fantastic to see maps of where the callouts were, whether they were isolated or whether they were entire streets in those most heavily hit suburbs as well.

Being able to use that information to coordinate the buses, the volunteers from the three sites that we had as well was absolutely invaluable and again, as we continued through the week after the Mud Army, making sure we left no resident behind on all of those people that had called out, that they required help during that time and ensuring that they got the help they needed over the weekend or that we could get out there with the ADF and Council crews to help them as well.

So, I have to say thank you very much to the Economic Development team and everything they did for the Mud Army and the Analytics and the LDCC. I know they’re working now with some fantastic audits that are being done across the city and helping them make sure that we map, we gather the information and we can step into that recovery phase and reconstruction as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. I rise to speak on this report and offer some observations about the flood event and flood crisis from my perspective as the Councillor for the Deagon Ward. It’s now been two weeks since the end of the flood crisis in my ward, the clean-up again immediately after on Monday 28 February and while it’s been a long road already, there’s still a long way to go. This is what happened along the way, or will be part of it, anyway.

On 23 February I began warning people on my social media channels of the wet weather ahead. It had just started raining then. It seems like a long time ago now. That continued through to 25 February when that rain began intensifying. On night of 25 February, we started seeing localised flooding occurring. I contacted Council to report local roads being underwater. By 9:30pm on Friday 25 February, the Zillmere Depot had run out of sandbags. I attended the depot—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Point of order, DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I recognise that Councillor CASSIDY wants to share this information and it is—for GB (General Business), it’s not what I talked about in my Committee or anything that my Committee had related to.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, it’s very specific what the report is about. If you could talk to the report, please.

Councillor STRUNK: Yes, the DEPUTY MAYOR has said that what the Leader of the Opposition is saying wasn’t relevant. She identified the sitrep and the analytics behind that and those sitreps of course include the weather forecast, strategic priorities, intelligence and a number of other very important issues, so I don’t know why we shouldn’t be able to speak to the sitrep.

Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, you’re speaking of issues that arose before the Mud Army, and the report is about the analytics that were used to deploy the Mud Army. That is the motion before us.

Councillor CASSIDY: Well, if you don’t listen to it now, you’re going to have to listen to it later.

Councillor STRUNK: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Chair: Councillor STRUNK, point of order.

Councillor STRUNK: You did rule on my point of order number one and number two, the analytics are part of the sitrep and vice versa, so why can’t the Leader of the Opposition speak to those points?

Councillor CASSIDY: What this clearly shows, then, Chair, is that the DEPUTY MAYOR and Council and the LDCC took none of this on board in developing what the Mud Army was supposed to be doing. This is all information I’ve fed up through to the LDCC, which the DEPUTY MAYOR talked about, which then was to inform the flood recovery, which I was going to get to. But you’re saying I can’t talk about any of the flood events that led up to the formation of the Mud Army, is that the ruling?

Chair: My ruling is that the report is very specific to the analytics that were used for the deployment of the Mud Army but Councillor CASSIDY, I’ll allow you to speak to the broader issues.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. So, as I was saying, I contacted Council about the lack of sandbags and by the next morning, there was a resupply. By 26 we had started seeing more localised flooding; the Einbunpin Lagoon had broken its banks. By Saturday morning, 26 February, I began publishing important information from the sitrep documents on my social media.

This included road closures, sandbag details, tide heights and rainfall, which were included in sitreps, which by this stage I had finally started receiving. On Saturday morning 26 February, Queens Parade, Groth Road and Zillmere Road were underwater. By Saturday night, there were more local roads underwater; Roghan Road at the intersection of Sandgate Road, many of the avenues in Sandgate from Second to Eighth Avenue, and the rain was intensifying.

Upon inspection on the Saturday night, Groth Road had signs and traffic cones, however Zillmere Road just had a couple of traffic cones as a road closure and I witnessed several cars driving over the top of them and into the water. I attempted to contact Council and members of the LDCC that night but couldn’t get through. I put the cones back as best I could in the rain. By Saturday night, sandbag production had begun 24 hours a day at Zillmere.

There were approximately 3,000 bags available first thing Sunday morning. These were taken up in the first hour or two. I’d been on the road since 6am on Sunday 27 February and did several local updates on social media warning people of the dangers of this weather and for one of those was joined, of course, by Federal Member Anika Wells and State Member Stirling Hinchliffe who had been providing their own updates to the community respectively.

At 8.30am, Anika Wells and I had dropped sandbags to Brighton for people to collect as they weren’t available outside of the Zillmere Depot, and after this I went back to that depot where I stayed until about 4pm that day. When I arrived it was disorganised; the line of cars was growing. I spoke to the Council officer in charge, Daniel, about the situation. On that shift they had around 10 staff working on the single machine at the Zillmere Depot.

He had requested traffic control at 6am but still hadn’t arrived by 9am when he asked Annika Wells and I to assist with traffic and alerting people to the growing wait times for sandbags.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order. To the relevance, if Councillor CASSIDY would like to point to the paragraph where sandbagging at Zillmere Depot has anything to do with the update from my Committee for the flood response.

Councillor CASSIDY: Every sitrep included details about sandbags where they weren’t available and Councillor ADAMS—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Can you point in the report where it mentions sitreps?

Councillor CASSIDY: You talked about sitreps and we talked about sitreps in the Committee last week. I don’t understand what the reticence is about this, Chair.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order. Yes, would Councillor CASSIDY take a question?

Councillor CASSIDY: Sure.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Paragraph 4 refers to internal data intelligence, the LDCC and information gathered from the LDCC. Would that include the type of information you’re discussing?

Councillor CASSIDY: Very much so and this is information I—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Absolutely. This is information that I was gathering as a local Councillor and attempting to pass through to the LDCC to no avail, mostly, on that Sunday, and to Council as well. As I was saying, what was happening on the ground—we began directing traffic. That Council officer managed to find some signs in the depot to close the right turn into Jennings Street from Zillmere Road to assist this.

The Federal Member, the State Member for Aspley by this stage and one of my staff members, Tom Hinchliffe, directed traffic and gave public information up until 12pm that day. Three hours we stood out on the road in the rain directing traffic and providing public information. Once the traffic control turned up, I, along with my staff member, had—and a handful of other local residents who had turned up, again, disseminating sandbags and organising vehicles.

There was no order and when a large bag of sandbags came out, people were rushing to them and in some cases getting one bag per drop, which meant some people would wait an hour to fill their cars up. We eventually made a system which made filling cars much quicker and more efficient. In the end, it probably didn’t matter because most people by the end were waiting three hours to collect sandbags at the Zillmere Depot.

Not just my residents, residents from right across the northside, from Wavell Heights, from Nundah, from Bracken Ridge, from Fitzgibbon, as well as residents in my ward as well. There was only one sandbagging machine operating so despite the Council crew there filling as fast as they possibly could, they simply could not keep up with demand. People were doing runs of sandbags out to Sandgate and Brighton for friends and neighbours but it was clear just having one location on the northside was a mistake.

More preparation should have been made and 20,000 sandbags should have been on standby at Zillmere alone for an event like this. The Zillmere Depot is now just a storage facility for Council now that operations have been centralised at Eagle Farm. This has absolutely hollowed out Council’s capability to deploy across the northern suburbs. I remained at the depot all day and continued to provide updates to people via social media and attempted to get back to Sandgate around 2pm, but by that time, discovered all access had been cut.

Lemke Road, Sandgate Road and the Gateway were all underwater, so went back to the depot. Many people who had come to get sandbags at the depot would have been in the exact same situation I was trying to get north from there. As the depot workers’ shift came to an end, I went with Daniel to visit the Council staff who had been filling those sandbags. They were absolutely exhausted. Some of them weren’t sure if they were going to be able to get home themselves and some of them were gearing up to put in a second shift.

I left the depot around 4pm and stayed at my staff member’s house. At 6:40pm I alerted people via social media that the situation was getting dire and that if people could take their neighbours in, they should, and people should call 000 if they were trapped. I spoke to one resident who had put his wife and child on a boat in Deagon and he remained in his two-storey home surrounded by two-metre-deep water.

He watched as they were taken away by neighbours, knowing that his young son would have died in that dangerous water if he’d fallen from that boat. I spoke to LORD MAYOR Adrian SCHRINNER that night and said people didn’t know what to do. There had been no warnings, no communication from Council as the lead agency. I spoke to Stirling Hinchliffe who escalated that message to the Emergency Services Minister.

Some SES (State Emergency Service) crews made it to Deagon but most people who were rescued were done so by other local residents on small boats. One of those rescuers was another staff member of mine, Quinn Storry. In regards to communication from Council and Council’s LDCC, on 26 February there were just four posts on Council’s Facebook page.

One of those was about storm preparation in the middle of a storm, another was about general possibility of flooding and telling residents to stay home, the third was about an evacuation centre and services being suspended and the final one included incorrect information that had to be altered. It stated that the Brisbane River could see flooding due in part to releases from Wivenhoe Dam, which was not correct at the time.

The next update didn’t occur until 2pm on Sunday telling people to check the Brisbane River flood map to see if their property was at risk of flooding. Most of the feedback on that post was that the map wasn’t helpful, unusable, or didn’t reflect current flooding. At 3:50pm, Council then shared an Urban Utilities post asking people to conserve water. At 5:07 a post went up telling people to stay put in their homes, not to drive, not to swim or walk through floodwaters.

This post did not tell residents how to call for help in the event of an emergency. There was no SES or emergency services details in this post. Then at 7.48pm, Council posted a link that didn’t even work. Some residents received a text about 7pm warning of possible river flooding three hours after houses had already been inundated by creek and flash flooding. I didn’t receive a message until 7.50am the next morning, 15 hours after the peak of that flood.

I will reserve some more comments for further in the meeting, Chair.

Councillor LANDERS: Mr Chair.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **516/2021-22**  At that time, 3.05pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the meeting adjourn for a period of 15 minutes, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked.  Council stood adjourned at 3.11pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: Thank you, further speakers.

Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: Thanks, Chair. I rise to speak on the report and in particular, on how the data analytics team was used to deploy the Mud Army and I offer this insight in the hope that it will be taken as constructive feedback. I’m not trying to cast aspersions or anything like that, but my understanding and perhaps the DEPUTY MAYOR will be able to correct me in summing up, is that broadly speaking there was a process whereby Council was collecting data on which households had been affected by flooding and might need support from the Mud Army volunteers. That was coming through a couple of channels, through Council officers going out, throughout Councillors making reports and through residents making direct requests.

My understanding is that that data was collated and then basically turned into a list of streets where the Mud Army ought to be deployed. What I saw on the ground and what seemed to be happening in a couple of areas was that the volunteers would then be bussed out to those streets and a supervisor, usually a Council staffer, would then go door to door and direct volunteers to each household where someone was home and said yes, we’d like some volunteer help. That process sounds good at first glance, but it did actually miss quite a few residents the first time round.

That was because the initial data that Council was collecting accurately captured, okay, residents of, for example, 109 Ryan Street do need support, residents of 111 Ryan Street don’t, whatever it is. But when the Mud Army volunteers were actually deployed on the ground, they weren’t referring back to that original data of exactly which households had requested support. It was almost like the data gathering exercise started again on the ground and I see the logic of having that kind of informal and flexible approach to coordination and volunteer deployment on the ground.

But I was there on a couple of streets and I watched the supervisors go up to each households and say to the residents, hey, do you want any volunteers here? If residents didn’t happen to be home at that very specific time that the person came through, then no volunteers were allocated to that particular household. So I don’t know that this is necessarily a failure of the data analytics team, or whether it’s a failure of the deployment side of things or how the two relate together. But I was in contact with one resident in West End who said they specifically requested volunteer assistance, but then the Mud Army volunteers weren’t deployed to their house.

I suspect what happened there was that when the supervisor who was deployed to Ryan Street in West End was going door to door with the line-up of volunteers behind them and saying how many do you need, they would have called out, no one would have heard them and so then they just move on to the next house. So I think that’s what happened and maybe Councillor ADAMS will correct me, but I was watching the deployment in East Brisbane and it was a similar phenomenon there, where I think residents from specific households had requested help but if on the day the Mud Army volunteers rocked up and there was no one answering at that particular moment, then they moved on to other households and other streets.

They didn’t necessarily directly check back in with those residents to see if they still needed help. In the end there were a couple of households where we were contacted by residents who said, we asked for the Mud Army to help, we were told they’d come out but they’ve missed my house. So then we were sending Greens volunteers out to do the cleaning. That was good and we were happy to help, but it does, I think, highlight a gap in the deployment strategy. So I’d be interested in whether Councillor MARX or Councillor ADAMS or anyone else wants to reflect on that. Because I appreciate it’s difficult, but it strikes me that if residents have signed up and said they’d like volunteer support, we should have their contact details.

So then I wonder why we’re not able to contact the resident and say hey, we’ll be coming to your street at roughly this time or roughly on this day. Then the resident can be there to direct the volunteers and arrange for the kind of help that they need, but that didn’t seem to happen. We’ve all heard the criticisms of the Mud Army volunteers not being deployed sooner and I understand there were concerns about further weather events and that sort of thing. I personally think they could have been deployed a lot sooner rather than holding them off until the Saturday, but I won’t re-examine that point.

But I do think that even on the Saturday where they were being deployed, they were just being deployed to a street or to a particular neighbourhood. There wasn’t enough rigorous reference back to the data that Council had already collected, to make sure that every household that needed assistance was getting assistance. So I’m not actually sure whether this is a problem of the city analytics team. Reading here, the report doesn’t say a lot of detail, it just says the mapped data was also used to inform deployment of the Mud Army 2.0. So I’m not clear whether did city analytics compile a really comprehensive list of specific addresses with the street numbers and the contact details of each resident.

Did the Council officers on the ground have those details when they were on the ground on Saturday, deploying volunteers. If they had those details, were they instructed to call up or check in with the households that had requested assistance, but where a resident didn’t seem to be present on the ground at the time. Because I think it does seem like a few residents were a little bit disappointed, where they thought they’d be getting help. There was a lot of promotion, there were a lot of billboards recruiting for the volunteer Mud Army, a lot of buzz around the idea, but then residents actually on the ground didn’t receive any help through that channel.

Later on, I think, a similar thing occurred with the Defence Force and the Fire Service, but I know Council doesn’t control those bodies so I won’t hold Council responsible for that. But certainly there was a gap there in that we were collecting data, we were using that data to map where volunteers were needed, but then we weren’t being specific enough and allocating volunteers to the specific households that had requested support. I’ll leave it at that.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, I rise to speak on the Economic Development and Olympics Committee report, regarding Council’s early response to the Brisbane 2022 floods. I think the first problem with this is early response seems to be a bit off, so that part’s problematic. But I do want to speak specifically to the issues of the Mud Army and also city analytics. Firstly, I do want to thank all the volunteers who did come out on the Saturday. I am sorry that they weren’t put to good use. It was very clear almost immediately that they were being dropped in odd spots or had run out of things to do.

I think like most Councillors, I got a call at 2.30 in the afternoon from the divisional manager asking me where to deploy people. A third of my ward was flooded and she’s asking me where to deploy people. I think something went wrong. I think the problems this time round were the opposite to last time. So in 2011, without question, what happened was wrong and it was obvious on the streets, everywhere I went in my ward people had signs up saying Mud Army no thank you. They were everywhere. That was a response to the problems of 2011, where people came with the best of intentions and went into houses with no one in them and threw things out.

Now that didn’t happen this time, which was good, but a lot of people had been badly burnt and weren’t prepared to allow people they didn’t know into their homes. The bigger problem, I think, is this expectation of a Mud Army and it’s really interesting to me that we’ve not actually heard and even in this we don’t know. There were reports from the LORD MAYOR that 15,000 people had registered to come and help. I have no idea how many people actually went out on the day and no one’s actually said, so that’ll be something I’ll put on notice, unless the DEPUTY MAYOR knows. I’d be really interested to know how many people actually were deployed on the day and I presume Council does have that data.

The biggest problem, I think, is the way in which Council went about organising where the volunteers were going to go. Certainly Councillor SRI touched on this a moment ago. It’s my understanding that Council had the following information available to them within a couple of days, two to three days. They had right from day 1, despite what the LORD MAYOR thinks, reports from Councillors on the ground about where streets were flooding and where houses were flooding. Two, they had drone footage of the flooded parts of Brisbane.

They had on the ground reports from Council officers who were roaming around, looking at areas that flooded and providing ground intelligence back to Council. They had satellite mapping and Council’s provided us with that satellite mapping a couple of days ago. They had the flood maps that Council issued saying where it was going to flood. So Council had all this information about where it was going to flood in Brisbane. The problem, I think, is—and I was pretty upset, I can tell you—when Councillor Krista ADAMS sent out an email to everybody, a blithe little email, just saying send us a spreadsheet with all your names, addresses, phone numbers, contacts, whatever, for people who you want help for.

Now I haven’t finally confirmed the number in my ward, but it’ll be somewhere close to 2,000 homes, I’m thinking. Currently it’s 120 streets. They range from water under the house through to catastrophic flooding into second storeys. So a lot of people’s homes have been adversely impacted. I did my very best, like I did in 2011, but when you don’t have an office, you have no power, two of your staff don’t have power at home, one only had foot access to her own home and Council goes outside of the established disaster arrangements to get you to write down thousands of households on a spreadsheet, that’s just not on. That’s not on.

Council had the flood maps available, they knew where it flooded. They had the drone footage available, they knew where it flooded. They had the on the ground intelligence from both myself and Council officers. I just find that this idea that Council needed more information to actually get a response out to communities in need and streets in need to be nonsensical. I have to agree with Councillor SRI, it was really interesting in talking to people and I’ve been on the ground in every street and spoken to residents in every street, not all residents of all street but as many as I can.

In Sherwood, for example, Mud Army volunteers went in to one street but they didn’t go into the adjoining flooded streets and I don’t know why. If they’d have walked to the corner they would have seen the next street that was flooded and gone there. So I don’t really understand why that didn’t happen, because obviously if I write down Egmont Street and McCulla Street, there are adjoining streets to that that are immediately flooded. But it’s not down to what I said, Council’s got maps, it had drone footage, it had Nearmapping, it’s got flood maps. The flood did largely follow the outline of where Council thinks it was going to flood, without question, right?

The severity of it was about half of what it was in 2011, so we’re very lucky in my ward, 2011 was much more substantial than 2022, as bad as 2022 was. It’s a miracle that the Brisbane River didn’t flood more, because there would be thousands more homes in my ward that would have been devastated. So I think one of the biggest issues that comes out of this, that will certainly be part of any submission I make to Justice de Jersey, is why is it even in the middle of last week Council was writing to us saying please send us a list of the streets in your ward that flooded. They had all that information, they had it all, they knew where it flooded.

Council published those, as dodgy as they were they published those maps on Sunday. They had where it flooded. Why is it then that they’re still asking a week and a half later for where it flooded? I was, to be honest, pretty upset when that email came through from Councillor ADAMS, because we were also told that this is how the Mud Army would be getting assistance to people. I’d already spent, I think five days it was at that point, relaying through information to Council’s LDCC team, which is where Councillors are supposed to give information about the floods and get information about the floods, so that we can liaise with our community and assist Council’s flood response.

So when the politicisation of the floods started and that was an early point in that process, it added a level of distress and confusion to what we were supposed to be doing that was just not appropriate. I believe I might have said that—and I believe it again today too—the person who botched this in 2011 is the person who’s botched it in 2022 but for different reasons. I just fail to understand why it happened the way it did and I will be genuinely seeking answers about this.

There are reports on the day of this, which just strikes me as astonishing if it’s true, that the Mud Army volunteers were all given tetanus injections before they left their meeting point at the Planetarium or wherever it was. Now once you get a shot in your arm like that you’re not supposed to do heavy lifting or go out and do things like that. I don’t know why volunteers were told to get tetanus before going out. Obviously people are put into risky situations with the debris, so I understand the point of the tetanus shot.

But I don’t know why, for example, it wasn’t done when they returned, when they could go home, instead of them being sent out into 35 degree days, going around helping people with sore arms. That’s an on the ground report back to me, someone asking me why that happened and I didn’t even know, I did not know. So I don’t know if that was a condition of having to volunteer, I don’t know if they were just offered as a voluntary thing. I don’t know why they were done before, which is my issue, rather than later, or why they weren’t sent to a doctor or wherever. I think the thing that Council needs to understand is that—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, your time has expired.

Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Sorry, Councillor LANDERS, you were—okay, Councillor STRUNK first.

Councillor STRUNK: She can go that time.

Chair: Okay, Councillor LANDERS.

Councillor LANDERS: Thank you. Chair, I rise to speak on item A and the Mud Army 2.0 and the fantastic response by the community that delivered support to flood-affected residents. In my local area, where creeks and overland flow caused damage to properties, we were able to get in and start the clean-up on the Monday. Our own local Mud Army came together with the aid of the wonderful Bracken Ridge Lions Club, who helped with moving water-damaged items to the kerb, pulling up floor coverings and providing comfort and a listening ear to residents impacted.

This meant that we had most of the heavy lifting done by the end of the week and we had volunteers ready to join in the next stage with the Mud Army 2.0 and to assist residents affected by river flooding. I even met volunteers who had been impacted by creek and overland flooding who had cleaned their homes and wanted to help those inner city residents begin their clean-up. Having been a member of the 2011 Mud Army, it was quite surreal to now be on the organisational side of the clean-up operation and it was an honour to join with Councillor DAVIS and our wonderful Council officers to assist with the mobilisation of the Mud Army from the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens marshalling station, which was one of three stations on that day.

I know that Councillor OWEN, Councillor HUANG, Councillor TOOMEY and Councillor HOWARD also assisted and of course, all Councillors in those affected areas were on the ground helping as well. Along with many volunteer Council officers, we gathered at 6am to prepare for the volunteers to register, provide equipment and also divide them into teams to be briefed and bussed out to where they were needed. We were also joined during the day by the Brisbane Greeters, who helped to welcome and marshal volunteers into the centres.

I want to thank the teams behind this huge coordination and mobilisation of volunteers. It was a well-oiled, efficient machine and I want to acknowledge the Council officers, bus drivers, Brisbane Greeters, truck drivers—

Councillor SRI: Point of order, Chair.

Chair: Point of order to you, Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: Will Councillor LANDERS take a question?

Councillor LANDERS: No. The ADF and all involved in the coordination of the Mud Army across the city. There were others behind the scenes of this Mud Army as well that people won’t have heard about. One of our first jobs of the day before volunteers arrived was to put together at least 100 brooms, kindly donated by Freudenberg Home and Cleaning Solutions of Pinkenba, along with mops and wipes. We had the help of the local State Member, Christian Rowan and Councillor for Pullenvale, Greg ADERMANN, who also later headed out on one of the buses with the teams.

The Mud Army 2.0 consisted of generous and kind community members, who worked in humid conditions to clean mud from people’s homes, remove damaged goods and organise damaged goods on the kerbside to allow for easier and faster pick-up by Council trucks and bobcats and the ADF. It was dirty work and no doubt for many quite heart-breaking to witness. We thank them for their support and for bringing comfort to so many people at their most vulnerable time. Just being there and showing people that they cared meant so much. Of course like all armies, they need to be fed and this support came from young and old across the community.

From Bernadette Hyland-Wood and her family, who delivered food in brown bags with beautiful drawings on them that the children had done and notes for the Mud Army saying thank you, with bread rolls that were donated by St Lucia Bread Hound and ham by the IGA. To Marie, who individually wrapped dozens and dozens of Anzac slides. To Dylan, who delivered gorgeous vanilla cupcakes with caramel buttercream. To Harris Farm Markets for the fresh apples, pears and bananas and the wonderful Stuartholme School boarders, who baked muffins all day and made two trips down the hill to deliver them to our hungry volunteers and returning Mud Army.

These country girls said they know what it is like to experience difficult times and they were so happy they could help do something. At the end of the day, we welcomed back busloads of muddy, hot and hungry troops with food and water and so much thanks. We listened to their stories and we witnessed them exchanging phone numbers with newly made friends that they had worked side by side with during that day. We are so very proud of Brisbane and I know the rest of the Councillors join me in the gratitude that we have for the Mud Army 2.0.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor LANDERS.

Further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Mr Chair. I rise to speak on this item and certainly to reflect on how the Mud Army was rolled out. But I suppose there’s an old maxim in managing any business or organisation and that is if you fail the plan, you plan to fail. So much aspect of the plan that Brisbane City Council was operating was really a fail in so many ways. It wasn’t all fail, absolutely not, but I rise just to speak about those areas that we see that we didn’t do a very good job in as a Council. The Mud Army probably was the one that struck me the first actually and I’m blessed to be in a ward that we didn’t have any flood inundation, right? So my ward residents decided to do other things and that is to volunteer for the Mud Army and for other jobs as well.

So I started to get some feedback in regards to some of the people that actually volunteered for the Mud Army and of course, it was cancelled after one day. Now I can only assume if you gather 15,000 people that are willing to work and you only even—I don’t know if you deployed them all on that day or not, but certainly if you gather that many people and they’re willing to work, you certainly want to give them more than one day’s work. So I can only say that I can only see that either the demand was less than what we planned for or the other way around, I don’t know. I’m sure Justice de Jersey will get to the bottom of it in regards to the Mud Army and other aspects of the response by Brisbane City Council.

Some of the other issues, I suppose, was in regards to the Mud Army but another broader issue as well was the communication, or the lack thereof. People didn’t really know who to communicate with in regards to wanting to volunteer in my ward, I’m going to speak about my ward. Although I did hear some other anecdotal evidence from other wards as well around me because those wards, of course, were much more greatly impacted or were impacted very greatly actually, including the Moorooka Ward, the Jamboree Ward and of course, Division 1 of the Ipswich City Council which is on my boundary as well.

So it’s really important that communication is meted out in a way that people can actually hear it or see it. I know that’s difficult because a lot of people lost power and it was really hard to communicate these. So consequently, I would think that a local Councillor would be a good source of that information, that they would be able to disseminate that information out to their residents that they represent. So in saying that, you’ve got to know what you’re doing and yes, there are some Councillors in this place that did go through 2011, so they knew but there was a lot that didn’t know. When the water’s rising and you don’t know, you sort of panic a little bit, I’m sure, especially if a lot of your residents are being impacted.

Of course, it gets very emotive and if you don’t actually have that background information as a Councillor as to what your job is, it’s really hard to help other people as well. So much so, in the planning last year in August and February this year in the Finance Committee, there were two separate Chairs for both those meetings. A presentation on the disaster preparedness by Brisbane City Council was presented. At the end of the presentation I suggested—no, I asked actually—that Council or Councillors should be given a half day seminar or a full day seminar, it didn’t really matter, but we needed to know what our job was.

So I suggested during both presentations at two different dates and they were just ignored. When I say ignored, it wasn’t taken up. They heard me but that’s where it ended. Nothing was done after that and here we go, the 2022 floods. Who would have thought 10 years after the last ones we’d be going through them again? But we’ve got to be prepared, so if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. If you don’t give the local Councillor the information that they need to know to do their job and to support what Brisbane City Council’s trying to do, or their Council’s trying to do, well good gracious, we’re an asset. There are 26 of us and people come to us and they want to know things and it’s very embarrassing.

So what I did in the absence of that, we have these severe storm weather kits that Brisbane City Council put out some years ago, during one of those presentations I was talking about in finance, we were presented and I thought this is a great idea. Councillor OWEN brought one of them and I thought what a great idea. Storm season every year you put them out, so we could just grab as many as we could prior to the floods. Now I didn’t have a crystal ball but it was a storm season and it had been raining a bit. So we grabbed as many as we could and literally we distributed hundreds right throughout my ward. They’re a great thing that Council puts together.

So I’m thinking if those 28,000 that had been inundated with flood right across Brisbane had one of those kits, they would have been a lot better off in knowing what to do. Even down to what to do with the pets and of course, people love their pets, there was even a brochure in there on that as well. So let’s, LORD MAYOR—maybe some of that money that we spend on that monthly circular that goes out to every resident costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, maybe we should put some of those kits together and distribute them to every one of our residents right across Brisbane. It would be certainly more helpful than that inside Brisbane—what’s it called again?

*Living in Brisbane*. So I think maybe that would be a better way of spending the money. Now again, back to the Mud Army, I remember in 2011 it was almost an organic development back then. Brisbane City Council did a good job, it wasn’t perfect, as Councillor JOHNSTON was saying in regards to a lot of stuff being thrown out of the houses and people didn’t want to put that out on the kerb. But that was really a direction oversight, I suppose, when people were being told what they could expect when they went out to do that work. So I’m not going to blame Council necessarily for that. But this time round it was really a fail. One day—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor STRUNK: Listen, whoever managed it, whoever oversighted it, I should say, because Council officers take direction from the Chairs, from the Mayor, DEPUTY MAYOR, it was really a fail. If you think one day of a Mud Army after all that effort and money was thrown at it to get it up and running, you think that’s a great thing, well I’ve got news for you, I don’t think the review’s going to look at it that way either. So I’ll just conclude with my comments there, Mr Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

Councillor ADAMS.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, did you have your hand up?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, I did.

Chair: My apologies, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Does the DEPUTY MAYOR want to go?

*Councillors interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, I’ll give you the floor.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Okay, thank you. I also wanted to participate in this debate as well. I think it was fitting to thank residents who participated in the Mud Army. I know many of them did it with the best intentions and did really well, from what I saw. I think it confused me about the data, because I know we’d been putting information through as requested through to the LDCC for the whole time. Even now we’re getting lots of requests through the office for the Mud Army to come and help them out. Basically the LDCC are telling my office and telling residents no, you’re not getting any assistance now, it’s over. So I’m a bit confused about the role of the LDCC and I think people are confused about the role of the Mud Army.

It seemed a big mistake that it was only for a day, because I know in my community we were running a local hub in Rocklea and Councillor JOHNSTON was there. We ran it in a car park that with a local business, Dewar’s Refrigeration. We were there for six days, so we went there from Tuesday to Sunday. We had volunteers on the ground and we had computers and we basically went from door to door to find out the needs of the residents. Then as volunteers came down, we connected them with residents. I pick up on Councillor JOHNSTON’s point, people had good experience of the Mud Army last time but they also had a bad experience of the Mud Army last time.

Certainly I would say about a third to a half of people in Rocklea didn’t want the Mud Army. They reported that they had items stolen, they reported that a lot of stuff was taken out of their house that wasn’t seen as valuable but was thrown away and they felt overwhelmed by the Mud Army. Certainly the message we gave residents who went in was two things, be respectful and be safe. They were the two messages that really worked well. Many residents actually requested a sign for their fence to say no Mud Army, or yes please, Mud Army would be great. I did raise that with Councillor HOWARD but it couldn’t be done in the short timeframe that we had.

But I think in future that might be something to consider, because a lot of people don’t want the Mud Army and a lot of people do want the Mud Army. What residents did want in Rocklea was locals working on their properties and locals they knew. So we worked with the Tzu Chi Foundation who didn’t want to go through the Mud Army, we worked with one of the local churches. We also worked with many, many volunteers and we connected them up on about groups of four or five, where they went to the same house and worked there for a few days. That was from the Tuesday on and it was very effective in terms of getting results.

Even on the Sunday, when we were packing up at the end of the day, people from all over Brisbane who were in the Mud Army came to Rocklea to give us a hand through that volunteer model. So I actually think rather than—I wouldn’t say the Mud Army failed, but I would say the Mud Army’s a good idea but we also need to look at it and I would say as a community-up approach as well as a Council‑down approach to get a really tight outcome for people. I just think that’s a good use of resources. We could get on the ground faster, be doing more and almost act like a hub where we provide a service to the community for a week or so.

I would certainly put that model up, it’s certainly a model we used in 2011 and it was very useful this time round and we perfected it this time round. I would like to also thank Jackie Meaney who is from the Lions, who helped me in 2011 and helped coordinate my staff, the business, Dewar’s Refrigeration and many, many, many volunteers, too many to name. We still have a lot of issues going on in Rocklea, we had a suicide as part of the flood event and there are people who are greatly affected by mental health issues down there.

People who can’t leave their homes who need to leave their homes, because their stuff’s going to be stolen. Their doors have swollen up so they can’t either open their doors or they can’t close their doors safely. The need is so great and it’s going on that I really think there’s more room for the Mud Army. So that’s my feedback, but I think an okay job but I think it can be done better. Once again, I think it’s a shame that local Councillors weren’t consulted, weren’t listened to. That seemed to be a consistent experience, not just for me but for other Councillors in relation to this whole exercise. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Further speakers?

DEPUTY MAYOR, my apologies from before.

DEPUTY MAYOR: No, that’s okay, thank you, Mr Chair. I have enjoyed listening to the feedback and actually I will take the opportunity now to share the very specific job that the Mud Army had and to rebut some of the complaints I’m hearing. Because I’m getting a bit confused that I listened to half an hour of E&C and probably more in Question Time of Councillors on the other side whinging and complaining and screaming across the Chamber that they were never consulted. Now they’re whinging and complaining that I emailed them and that the divisional manager phoned them. So I don’t know if it’s cake—I don’t understand. We are damned if we do and we’re damned if we don’t.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Damned if we do and damned if we don’t. The Mud Army had one very specific job and that very specific job for the Mud Army is to help clean the mud out of the houses, or move any of the equipment or stuff that is damaged onto the kerbside. Now this was a very different event, yes, to 2011. It was also a very different event with regards to the timing and I have to say I agree with Councillor SRI, I really wish we could have gone out earlier with the Mud Army. We were ready Thursday, we were ready and raring to go on Thursday.

In a personal phone call with the LORD MAYOR and the Premier, the Premier made it very clear under advisement that she did not want people going out in the next two days because of the weather events that were forecast. That she did not want to see Mud Army on the ground before lunchtime Saturday. Word for word, not before lunchtime Saturday. So when we were ready to go on Thursday and then everybody got a pseudo holiday on the Friday, the mud militia did get out, the people got out. Those 15,000 people that volunteered with Volunteering Queensland were not going to wait. When the weather forecast was wrong, they were not going to wait. They got out there and they started getting in there and helping, which is fantastic to see.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

DEPUTY MAYOR: I’ll take the interjection from Councillor JOHNSTON, that had nothing to do with the Mud Army, that’s exactly what I’m saying. If we could have been out there on the Thursday and Friday, I’m sure we would have been out there with loads and loads and loads of more buses than we had on the Saturday. But there was an advisement from the Premier to stay at home, so we could not run the Mud Army. So by the time we were ready to hit the ground and we got the permission to go early on Saturday morning, a lot of the work had already been done. A lot of that onto the kerbside work had been done.

We did learn from 2011 and we know with workplace health and safety now, the Mud Army cannot and were not allowed to lift kerbside collection onto trucks. That was not a part that they could possibly do. The focus was to get it onto the kerbside, if the residents wanted it. We heard from two Councillors that a lot of residents didn’t want it and we were very clear with that as well to our Mud Army when we gave them their briefing. We did have flood maps, we did have drones, we knew where it was inundated, we knew where it was river, we knew where it was creek. But we didn’t know what was going to be left by the time we got out there on the Saturday.

So as we heard the whinging continually for the previous hour, I contacted Councillors and I did not ask where has it been flooded, quote from Councillor JOHNSTON. Why send a list for where it’s flooding? I didn’t ask for where it was flooding; I asked—and here’s the email—to get a better understanding of how your communities have been impacted by floodwaters and what type of assistance they need. Now I know with Councillor JOHNSTON it’s all about not letting the truth get in the way of a good story, but the idea was to make sure we knew what streets needed kerbside.

What kerbsides needed help to get their stuff out onto—what houses needed help to get the stuff onto the kerbside. That was the question. The spreadsheet I sent had flood assistance, stuff being moved, kerbside collection. Now the experience we had when we got out there on Saturday was exactly as Councillor SRI said, a lot of it had been done. Thank you to all the Councillors who did give us their feedback without the sniping and most Councillors did.

I know Councillor STRUNK didn’t, but we do know that you weren’t that affected, so we presume, Councillor STRUNK, that you weren’t that affected and you told us that on Saturday as well. But a lot of the work had been done and that was one of the issues on the Saturday. So the many, many buses that went out with 50 people on a bus, they can’t just turn up at one house. There’s 50 people on a bus, we had the maps, we had all those details and every one of those people were contacted within 24 hours, if they didn’t have it, on a phone or an email. Emailed on the Sunday, phoned on the Monday if they didn’t respond. Everyone who had contacted us for the Mud Army.

So there’s many more in the LDCC that weren’t Mud Army requests, but the Mud Army people were all contacted. That’s why you also got a phone call from the divisional manager overseeing and coordinating the Mud Army on Saturday afternoon and can you give us any other streets where they still need help for people to put stuff out on the kerb. I will quote from the briefing note that I know the LORD MAYOR got through LDCC, Councillor JOHNSTON no answer and we left a voicemail. Councillor GRIFFITHS explained—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please, no more interjecting. Please, no more interjecting. I will warn you, Councillor JOHNSTON.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chair: Councillor, as you have failed to comply with the request made previously to take remedial action for your unsuitable meeting conduct, I hereby warn you in accordance with section 21(6) of the Meetings Local Law that failing to comply with the request may result in an order being issued.

Councillor ADAMS.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you. This was the briefing note from the Saturday afternoon. Yes, Councillor JOHNSTON did speak with Ms Tobias later in the weekend, but not on that Saturday afternoon. Did speak to Councillor GRIFFITHS, he explained he checked through his list and there was a concern he would come back—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Councillor ADAMS is lying and I suggest that she checks with Ms Tobias before she continues to say things that are false, obviously false and untrue.

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, I’m not going to put up with people saying things like that that are not true. I spoke with Ms Tobias—

Chair: Councillor JOHNSTON, please sit down.

Councillor JOHNSTON: No, not until that is corrected.

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| **Order – Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON**  The Chair then advised Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON that as she had continued to fail to comply with his request for remedial action for her unsuitable meeting conduct, in accordance with section 21(8) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, an order reprimanding her for her conduct was being issued. |

*Councillor interjecting.*

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| **Order – Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON**  The Chair then advised Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON that as she had continued to fail to comply with his request for remedial action for her unsuitable meeting conduct, in accordance with section 21(8) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, an order reprimanding her for her conduct was being issued. |

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order.

Chair: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Firstly, I dissent in your ruling.

*The dissent motion lapsed for want of a seconder.*

Councillor JOHNSTON: But secondly, what are you going to do about the direct lies that Councillor ADAMS has just told in this Chamber?

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| **Order – Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON**  The Chair then advised Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON that as she had failed to comply with his request for remedial action for her unsuitable meeting conduct, in accordance with section 21(8) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*, an order for her to leave the meeting, including the Antechamber and the Public Gallery, and to stay out for the duration of the meeting was issued. |

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, may I please have an adjournment motion while Councillor JOHNSTON is removed from the Chamber?

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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| **517/2021-22**  At that time, 4.10pm, it was resolved on the motion of the DEPUTY MAYOR, Krista ADAMS, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the meeting adjourn until Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON leaves the meeting.  Council stood adjourned at 4.11pm. |

*Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON refused to leave the Chamber in accordance with the order made by the Chair under section 21(8) of the Meetings Local Law 2001. The Chair of Council made an order under section 21(9) of the Meetings Local Law 2001 that Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON* *be removed from the meeting place. Therefore, the Manager, Governance, Council and Committee Services (an authorised representative for the Chair under section 21(9) of the Meetings Local Law 2001), directed Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON* *to leave the Chamber. Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON* *continued to debate the Manager and refused to leave the Chamber. Following Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON’s* *failure to follow the Manager’s direction, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) was called. A QPS officer was asked to escort Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON* *from the Chamber. Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON* *discussed the matter with the QPS officer before leaving the Chamber with the QPS officer at their request.*

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR, you have the floor.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you. How much time—that’s on there.

Chair: About four minutes.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you very much. As I was saying, we wanted to make sure that we knew exactly from the Councillors on the ground, that we’ve heard many, many times here this afternoon, that you should be contacting the local Councillors on the ground who know exactly what’s going on. So we took the opportunity—I shouldn’t say we. The Mud Army team took the opportunity to ring the Councillors on Saturday afternoon to say hey, we got your list the other day, we really need to know is there anything else for the Mud Army, any streets that you need? As you said, Councillor SRI, a few here and there which we’ve contacted one-on-one, but not streets of people given us for a busload of 50 people to turn up and take stuff onto the kerbside.

So as I was saying, the briefing we got from the team was that there was a call to Councillor JOHNSTON at the time from this officer, no answer, left a voicemail message. Call to Councillor GRIFFITHS, he said he explained, again no answer, left a voicemail, he got straight back straightaway, we tried again. He explained that he was going to check with the list they had been tracking and would call back if there were any other locations and there was no return call. Councillor STRUNK said when he rang back, all okay here, thank you. Councillor COOK, I’ve sent the spreadsheet, what we really need now is kerbside pick-up and we understood that, that’s not Mud Army work.

The same with Councillor CASSIDY. We have 120 of our own volunteers today, as Councillor CASSIDY said today. What we really need now is kerbside pick-up. Councillor JOHNSTON did eventually get back and I said the next day but it wasn’t, it was later that afternoon, to the divisional manager when she answered the phone and said that most of the areas were done. They would be ready for a second visit, but the issues were the bins which she’d been asking for for days. Advised there was an elderly lady at Fairfield Road, which was another issue that was followed up, but not streets with actually places for kerbside to be filled from houses. Councillor CUMMING, thank you very much, we’ll get back and check the impacted wards.

We also rang Councillor HUTTON, Councillor ADERMANN, MATIC, Councillor WINES, who said similar things, thank you very much, people have been out, they’ve been about. As we saw, as I was saying earlier, a lot of this work that the Mud Army were doing was already done in the days leading up when there was an inclement weather forecast, Mud Army held off. I know with Councillor MATIC that we were down there—he’s not here at the moment. Councillor MATIC, we’re down there from Tuesday, they had their mud militia for four days before the Mud Army, making sure things were getting onto the kerbside and being collected.

So we did have the flood maps, we did have the drones, we knew where the flooding was. What we were trying to ascertain was where could the Mud Army come and specifically help you. So no, we could not go into empty houses and they didn’t go into empty houses. They could only move things to the kerb, not lift onto trucks. There were tetanus shots offered but the volunteers had the choice of before or after, totally up to them as well. My assistance was very clear, that it was about sending us where you still need help for the Mud Army, not for where did you get flooded, as was mentioned by Councillor JOHNSTON.

I would like to just say in my remaining 20 seconds, Councillor STRUNK, I am absolutely disappointed to hear you say that Council failed. Those Council officers in the Mud Army team worked 12 hours a day from the Monday through to the Saturday and it was a 14-hour day on Saturday. I was in there from 5.30 on the Saturday morning and the team were there long after me when I left at 6pm that night. They did a spectacular job and thank you to everybody who volunteered on the ground.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor ADAMS.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Economic Development and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Krista Adams (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sarah Hutton (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Jared Cassidy, Kara Cook and Steven Huang.

#### A CHAIR UPDATE ON EARLY RESPONSE TO THE 2022 BRISBANE FLOODING EVENT

**518/2021-22**

1. The Civic Cabinet Chair provided the Committee an update on early response to the 2022 Brisbane flooding event. She provided the following information.

2. Council’s City Analytics team has been crucial in contributing to the work of flood recovery, particularly, with the deployment of the Mud Army 2.0. The devastating 2022 flooding event was experienced across the city due to extreme rainfall causing overflows combined with high river peaks and high tides. This unprecedented flooding affected all of Council’s creeks and overland flow paths, with a significant number of areas being inundated which had not been previously flooded.

3. As the flood waters receded, residents commenced immediate removal of damaged possessions for placement on the kerbs as soon as possible. A two phased approach to clean-up operations was undertaken, ensuring that damaged goods were placed onto kerbsides for collection, as soon as possible.

4. Within this portfolio, Council’s City Analytics team was engaged during the early stages of the flood response in order to utilise current technology to analyse the flood impacts. Key information was gathered across various sources, including internal data and intelligence units, such as the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC), combined with information gathered from the community and requests made directly to Council. The gathered data was input into detailed mapping systems which enabled Council to understand the scale of damage across Brisbane, and to further understand what type of assistance was required at the different locations, while prioritising services as efficiently as possible.

5. The analytical reports generated by City Analytics were used to assist their coordination of the Mud Army 2.0. The mapped data was also used to inform deployment of the Mud Army 2.0, the Australian Defence Force and Council officers involved in waste collection. The efforts of the Mud Army 2.0 were focused on assisting residents to rapidly remove damaged items from their homes and undertake general cleaning activities.

6. City Analytics also worked with Council’s Transport team to identify suitable routes to be used by the buses to transport Mud Army 2.0 volunteers safely to the identified clean-up sites.

7. City Analytics provides a crucial role and is continuing to work with the LDCC for as long as required to assist with flood recovery efforts. Council’s response to the 2022 flooding event, and use of technology, will enable Council to prepare for how data is used to manage future events.

8. The Civic Cabinet Chair answered questions of the Committee.

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, Transport Committee report please.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Angela OWEN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 March 2022, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thanks very much, Mr Chair. As you are aware, last week consisted of two Committee meetings. So prior to the recent flood event we had planned on receiving an update on the progress of the Green Bridges program. I’ll keep this report brief so I can get to updating the Chamber further on flood impacts and there are a few milestones that we have achieved on green bridges, so I’ll just touch on them now. Firstly, I’d just like to thank the Connect Brisbane team and their contractors for their efforts during the flood event.

As Councillors would be aware, during the flood there was concern around one of the crane barges being used for the Kangaroo Point bridge, a structure called a jack-up barge. That was at risk of tipping and floating downstream. Fortunately this catastrophic situation was avoided, thanks to our highly skilled contractors. They were able to monitor and level out the barge, before being able to tug her downstream safely where she was moored at Murarrie for safety checks. I’m pleased to report to the Chamber today that the barge is unharmed and is returning to work on piling the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge as we speak, so a great outcome there.

On the topic of other bridges in the program, I can advise Councillors that we are in the final procurement stages now for the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge. I know that you, Mr Chair, are very keen to see us get on with this really important active transport project, connecting Newstead Park to the Lores Bonney Riverwalk. Public consultation on the preliminary business cases and concept designs for the West End Green Bridges has now closed. We have received more than 1,000 survey responses and approximately 770 people attended 10 information sessions.

So the team will now be working to analyse that and produce a consultation report and we will of course update the community on the outcomes, once that has been finalised. Of course, as I have said previously, there will be further consultation with communities at those landing points as we get further down the track with those bridges. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber. I look forward to giving an update on the flood impact in the next Committee report. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Any further debate on this report of 1 March? No further debate?

Thank you, we now move to the vote on the report dated Tuesday 1 March 2022, Transport Committee report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Transport Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Ryan Murphy (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Angela Owen (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Steven Huang, David McLachlan and Jonathan Sri.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – GREEN BRIDGES UPDATE

**519/2021-22**

1. The Project Director, Green Bridges, Major Projects, City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Green Bridges Program. He provided the information below.

2. The Kangaroo Point Green Bridge construction site was impacted by the recent flooding event. A 250‑tonne ‘jack-up’ barge at the site, carrying a 135-tonne crane, moved approximately 200 metres downriver as a result of flooding and strong currents in the Brisbane River on 27 February 2022. On advice from the Harbour Master, the barge was secured at this location, as it was considered unsafe to attempt further re-location due to extreme weather conditions. The barge was taken off-site by two tugboats on 3 March, once river conditions enabled safe transport downriver. The barge is currently being inspected for damage and is undergoing a safety assessment at the contractor’s yard in Murarrie, before returning to service. However, it is not expected to return to service before 14 March, assuming river flows have returned to normal. The construction site will also be checked for submerged obstructions prior to the recommencement of piling works. Immediate impacts to the program are currently being assessed. There were no major impacts to the CBD site and works re-commenced on 2 March. The Committee was shown images of the flood impact to the Brisbane River, barge and crane.

3. Major works have commenced for the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge, and the Committee was shown images of the CBD and Kangaroo Point construction sites. The construction sites will remain in place for the duration of the construction period, with works expected to be completed by late 2023. Site establishment activities have included the delivery of demountable buildings for project staff; vegetation trimming and removal; demolition of a retaining wall and roundabout at the corner of Alice and Edward Streets; relocation of existing infrastructure, such as CCTV; street furniture; bins; underground services; and construction of a crane platform to facilitate marine construction works at the CBD landing site.

4. A marine logistics facility has been established at the Port of Brisbane to store and pre-assemble elements of the bridge. The Committee was shown images of the logistics site and bridge elements under construction. These components will be transported to the construction site by barge to reduce unnecessary road travel. A local marine construction zone has been established in the Brisbane River, imposing navigational controls and a reduced speed limit of six knots.

5. The Committee was shown images of the locations and layout of piling activities for the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge. Piling activities are now underway on the central pier of the bridge to provide the necessary support for the new bridge structure. Over the next 10 months, 31 permanent piles, with diameters of 1.5 metres and 2.1 metres, will be driven 20 metres below the riverbed and anchored into the underlying rock.

6. In early to mid-2022, marine piling and substructure works will include the construction of temporary bridges at the CBD and Kangaroo Point landings, installation of a gantry over the City Botanic Gardens Riverwalk to preserve pedestrian access, and closure of the Riverwalk from 3 March for up to four weeks to install the gantry and safely carry out piling near the CBD landing. Piles for the main bridge pylon will be installed by mid-2022.

7. In mid to late 2022, substructure completion works will include the construction of a 72-metre tower crane to install the main pylon, which will reach 83 metres above the bridge and 95 metres over the Brisbane River, installation of pylon and deck spans at the CBD approach, steel erection, and plaza piling and concrete works.

8. Council is finalising the evaluation of bids from three shortlisted tenderers for the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge. The contract is expected to be awarded in March 2022, with construction to start by mid‑2022 and be completed late in 2023. The Committee was shown an artist impression of the Breakfast Creek Green Bridge.

9. Consultation on concept designs for the West End Green Bridges closed on 28 February 2022, with more than 1,000 survey responses received, and approximately 770 people attending 10 information sessions. Council is now undertaking a detailed analysis of all feedback received, with detailed consultation reports to be released in the coming months. Feedback on the concept designs will play a critical role in helping to finalise the bridge designs and business cases for the Toowong to West End and St Lucia to West End Green Bridges. Council will continue to keep local residents, and stakeholders informed about the projects as they progress.

10. Following a question from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Project Director for his informative presentation.

11. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Chair: Councillor MURPHY, the report please of the meeting dated Tuesday 8 March 2022.

### TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Councillor Ryan MURPHY, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Transport Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Angela OWEN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 8 March 2022, be adopted.

Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thanks, Mr Chair. In the second Committee meeting last week, I provided an update to the impact of the recent flood event on the transport portfolio. It was a snapshot of what our immediate response looked like and I can now give a further update to the Chamber in the same vein. Across the last week we’ve been working to assess the damage to our assets and our infrastructure and we have started the clean-up and repair process.

While we enter this next stage I can say that the dangers still exist out there from damaged and washed away bikeways that people are traversing, despite the fact that they are washed away and our ferry terminals, all of which are still closed and some of which there are still some dangerous amounts of debris around. So please stay away from damaged infrastructure. I know it shouldn’t need to be said, but it does. If it is closed off with tape, please don’t go in there, there’s a good reason for that.

I want to just touch on our ferries. Now over the past week, RCF (RiverCity Ferries) and our ferry team has been working very hard to assess all of our vessels. We’ve worked with Maritime Safety Queensland to move our vessels onto hardstand for inspection. We’ve also been steam cleaning the interiors to protect against inundation of rainwater, any dangerous mould developing. Unfortunately the severe weather and the flooding sent a large amount of debris down our river, as we saw, which impacted our terminals and our vessels. We’re still working on vessel assessments but it’s clear that a number of CityCats will require repair work before they can be returned to service.

I want to assure the community that all of our vessels are insured and that we have commenced an insurance process as part of our flood recovery. Our ferry services remain suspended at this time, but we’re working very hard to restore services as quickly as possible. Although some CityCats have suffered damage from debris, most of our vessels remain in good shape and I can advise that it will soon be possible to restore some services. Once our vessels and terminals are cleared and cleaned, we will restore services where possible and will gradually rebuild our network up to full capacity.

Just on ferry terminals, as the LORD MAYOR and I have outlined over the last week, our ferry terminals withstood significant flooding, strong river currents and impacts from debris in the river. While all of them have sustained some level of damage, we have not seen a repeat of 2011, when seven terminals washed away. Where some of the terminals built to replace the ones lost in 2011 have swinging articulated gangways, some have released due to the velocity of the floodwater. Work is underway on planning the assessment and reattachment of those gangways at this time.

*At that time, 5.24pm, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Steven TOOMEY, assumed the Chair.*

Councillor MURPHY: We’ve also seen strengthened flood resilient pylons do their work to protect against the ferocious currents of the Brisbane River in flood and a large amount of debris impact as well. The flood reconstruction ferry terminals at Milton, QUT (Queensland University of Technology), North Quay, Holman Street, UQ (University of Queensland) and Regatta were the ones that suffered the most extensive damage in 2011, due to their location in the river and the speed and path of debris travelling downstream, as well as the depth and flow of the river. Due to their position in the river, we can expect these terminals to be some of the hardest hit. But as I said, the major difference is in 2022 these terminals are still standing.

We’ve been able to undertake an initial assessment of the terminals’ condition using drone and land-based inspections. MSQ (Maritime Safety Queensland) is progressing hydrographic surveys on the river to be able to reopen it in conjunction with the Australian Navy and I thank them for their assistance in this task. We’ve had Royal Australian Navy clearance divers down in the river all week doing the very hard work of assessing our terminals. That will help us to a great extent at getting these terminals back in action ASAP, so I want to thank them.

At this stage of the assessment, we anticipate needing repairs to some of the gangways, electrical work and balustrades. Our team and our contractors at RiverCity Ferries are very keen to get services back up and running as soon as possible, so we are making assessment of ferry terminals an absolute priority, Deputy Chair. In terms of cleaning, we’ve made good headway while the surveys are taking place underwater. Cleaning at Howard Smith Wharves and South Bank is complete, Northshore Hamilton and Bretts Wharf terminal clean is commencing today and Teneriffe and Merthyr Mooring will commence tomorrow, so we are making good progress.

Mr Chair, on bikeways I’d just like to discuss our bikeway network. Can I first just acknowledge that we need to do better in communicating the impact that the flood has had to our bikeway network. I look forward to having more details to share with the community about the detours, the damage and the rebuild that will follow in the next week. But I want to thank the community for their patience and their understanding. Now the combination of river and creek flooding that we have experienced in this flood event has had an enormous impact on our bikeway network, as I alluded to last week, 234 kilometres of 395 kilometres of off-road bikeway was inundated by the flood. Plus upstream creek lengths, which are still being determined.

So a very, very significant impact to our city’s bikeway network. Our key priority is, of course, to just keep people safe. Signage and fencing has been and will continue to be installed where needed for safety. Where sections are closed, I ask the public to respect that for everyone’s safety. Where cyclists are being asked to dismount, again this is for their safety and we ask that they do that in their own interests. Surveys and inspections are underway, a lot has been done and there is a lot more to do, Chair.

The full extent of damage is currently still being assessed and even today some areas are only just becoming accessible, due to safety concerns and obviously the spread of infrastructure damage that we’ve suffered across the city and the necessity to ensure that roads are cleared to be able to get trucks, bobcats in to clear streets and allow people to get back into their homes. Teams of Council officers are working through the priority of our bikeway corridors and will keep informing people where clean-up is needed and where repairs and detours are happening as well.

Some of the first priority corridors include Kedron Brook, Ithaca Creek, Enoggera Creek, plus there are several others within the initial priority corridors of which, as I said last week, Bicentennial Bikeway was our top priority. The data from this assessment will start coming through this week as works progress. This data, combined with field inspection data, will be brought into a mapping tool to illustrate and report on the status of the bikeway network. This will be used for mapping a bikeway network status and informing our clean-up and repair work, please we will establish a learning page on Council’s website to keep people informed as to the rebuild.

Now that Council has dealt with much of the kerbside flood-damaged waste of our residents and resources are being reallocated to bikeways more and more as we speak, the huge task of mud and debris removal is now well underway. We are increasing resources as they become available. Cleaning in many locations has involved the removal of up to 30 centimetres of mud and silt and we can’t just simply give it back to the river that gave it to us, Deputy Chair, we have to dispose of it properly and that is not an easy task. All known affected bridges and other crossings, such as culverts and causeways, on our dedicated bikeways have been inspected.

A total of 175 structural inspections have been undertaken thus far. The good news is that we have very few bridges and culverts in need of a full rebuild on our dedicated bikeways. However, we do know that large sections of bikeway have been demolished or substantially damaged. At the Kedron Brook Bikeway, for example, there are large amounts of damage to the bikeway at the Thistle and Bradshaw Street Crossing. A shipping container has collided with the Gilbert/Montrose Street Bridge and multiple sections of bikeway that were there prior to the flood are simply not there anymore, they have been completely washed away.

As we know and has been discussed here in this place, the Bicentennial Bikeway has been cut by the Drift restaurant and is currently closed. After the Drift restaurant is removed, Deputy Chair, we will need to take some time to clean and inspect the bikeway to ensure that it is safe. This will be dependent on a damage assessment, including structures, pathways, shelters and railings. I’m very glad that the State Government, through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, are now working after a 10-year hiatus for removal of the restaurant. It has been far too long, but at least we are getting on with the job now and I’m very hopeful that we can get that sorted out soon and have the bikeway reopened to the public.

Finally, Chair, lastly, we can report that all of our bus services were up and running again, which was a great achievement given buses are one of the city’s most vital transport services. Two-thirds of the Brisbane travelling public travel on buses. Although the network is back up and running, there are still some route diversions and some temporary stops in place around the city, where we continue to manage our flood impacts. Of course, Councillor ALLAN’s ward in Toombul was severely affected, the Toombul Shopping Centre, for example, remains closed and the centre itself experienced significant flooding and repair.

Chair, our green and public transport network has been hit hard by the floods across Brisbane and the task to rebuild and repair will be significant. But I want to thank the community for their patience while we do this in the safest way possible. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: Thanks, Chair. I rise to speak to the report. Just briefly I’ll note that it’s often kind of annoying when the signs say cyclists dismount, but there’s not a sign further along the bikeway telling you you’re allowed to get back on again. I don’t know, it doesn’t happen on every bikeway, but maybe it would be nice for the people putting the signs out to think about that stuff a little bit more.

I wanted to speak primarily about the importance of some bus services to fill gaps in the ferry network. It’s been about two and a half weeks now since the ferries have been unavailable to residents who normally rely on them for transport. Obviously there are understandable reasons for that and all the information that’s been made available so far suggests to me it could be quite some time before full ferry services are restored. We’ve asked these questions a couple of times now, I haven’t yet had really firm answers from the MAYOR or Councillor MURPHY and perhaps Councillor MURPHY will be able to elaborate a little bit in his summing up remarks.

But I guess residents who live close to these terminals and who rely on them for public transport really are wondering whether any alternative bus routes will be put on to cover those gaps. Or indeed whether improvements to the frequency and operating hours of existing bus routes could be made in the near future, so that there’s an alternative bus route available. As I’ve mentioned previously, the 192 stands out as an obvious service that could be improved. The 192 runs from UQ St Lucia through West End and then into the city, so it provides overland a bus connection between UQ and West End and has the added advantage of picking up Highgate Hill and other parts of Dutton Park as well.

So it’s quite an obvious route that would benefit from improvements anyway. But in light of the fact that the West End ferry terminal is down, we’ve got a lot of residents at the southern side of West End who are basically—it’s now quite a long journey to get to UQ. They have to walk to the Blue CityGlider and then that takes them into the centre and then they get another bus back out. It’s a significantly longer travel time journey, particularly in peak hour when Montague Road is heavily congested. So I would appreciate if Councillor MURPHY can explain a bit around what is the process for getting extra services added in a situation like this.

I appreciate that some negotiation with the State Government is probably necessary and I recognise that the State’s often very slow to reply on these kinds of issues. But it also strikes me that Brisbane City Council must have some contingency funds available, where it can wear the upfront cost of increasing some of these bus services or improving some of these bus services temporarily and later on seek reimbursement from the State Government. I don’t accept the proposition that in a disaster, where there’s a big gap in the public transport network, Brisbane City Council should just throw its hands up and say oh, well, we can’t do anything until the State Government says so.

I think we have an obligation to residents who’ve come to rely on those public transport services that we will provide stopgaps and get them happening quickly. I had thought that two weeks after the flood event, by now the Council would be announcing some interim bus routes. When the Kangaroo Point ferries went down a couple of years ago, the Council rightly put on a free bus loop between Kangaroo Point and the CBD and it didn’t take too long to do that. So I do wonder what the holdup is, what the timeframes are in terms of these gaps. I mentioned the 192 service already, another service that perhaps would benefit from increased frequency is the 232 bus service.

This would connect more residents of Kangaroo Point and East Brisbane into the CBD, noting that the Mowbray Park ferry terminal at East Brisbane is out of action, as are the various ferries up at Kangaroo Point. But the 232 also connects East to Bulimba and Hawthorne and strikes me as a really obvious example of a bus service where if the frequency in operating hours of that bus service were improved, more residents would be enticed to travel by bus and we would be able to avoid some of the severe traffic congestions issues we’re now seeing on Lytton Road. It’s been quite noticeable in the last couple of weeks just how many cars are driving along Lytton Road.

I attribute that, at least in part, to the fact that the ferries are out of action. I do think Council really needs to be looking at this and getting onto this more quickly. I’ve emailed the relevant divisional manager and asked those questions internally and haven’t yet had responses. I know how busy people are, but there are a lot of busy residents as well who they need to get to work, they need to get around the city. A lot of those inner city residents in particular don’t own cars of their own. They have essentially done what Council was trying to encourage them to do, which is not rely on private motor vehicle transport. Sell your car, we’ve got a good public transport system in the inner city, you can walk and ride, *et cetera*.

So residents have taken that on in good faith, they’ve tried to switch to public and active transport and now Council is not providing the public transport that they’ve come to rely on. So again, I appreciate it’s the flood, it’s a bit unusual, but the Council does need to be a little bit quicker at getting replacement or alternative services up sooner. Recognising that by some accounts this was probably only a one in 50 years flood, there’s some debate about that. But this was not as rare an event as say the 2011 floods were, according to historical records. There’s every possibility we might see more floods of this level over the coming years.

In that context, the Council needs to get a lot quicker at introducing replacement bus services when the ferries go down. I don’t think it’s satisfactory anymore for Council to say oh, this was completely unforeseeable, we didn’t know the ferries would go down, we didn’t know the river would flood, therefore we’ve been caught off-guard. I appreciate there are lots of challenges but we should have this as a failsafe that’s built into our public transport system, where if the river becomes unnavigable due to heavy storms or floods or any other issues, that there is a quick and straightforward process to get extra bus routes put onto the network.

That should be built into the way the transport network is planned, that’s basic resilience and redundancy planning in how you run a transport network. It shouldn’t take three, four weeks to get alternative routes up and running. I will finally add—and I appreciate this might take slightly longer than the other route that really ought to be introduced as soon as possible, is the Gold CityGlider to connect Hamilton into the city and down to Woolloongabba and Annerley. I know that those Northshore residents are also feeling the pinch in terms of loss of access to their CityCat services and that Gold CityGlider service is the really obvious bus route to introduce to fill that need.

That would get residents into the city centre and also down to Woolloongabba and vice versa. So I’m looking forward to hearing a bit more detail from Councillor MURPHY on who are we waiting on, what are the key roadblocks, how long can residents expect it’ll be before those replacement bus routes are introduced. Will they be completely new bus routes, or will it be a case of we’re just going to improve some of the existing services, such as the routes I’ve just mentioned. Thanks.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor SRI.

Are there any further speakers?

Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Thank you, Deputy Chair. Just very briefly in response to Councillor SRI’s comments just then, I will just say, Councillor SRI, we have approached TransLink about ferry replacement services in areas that are currently without a CityCat or a KittyCat service as a result of the closure of the city’s ferry network. Those discussions have commenced and I’ll be in a position to further update the Chamber as to the progress of those discussions probably next week. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MURPHY.

We’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Transport Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Ryan Murphy (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Angela Owen (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Steven Huang, David McLachlan and Jonathan Sri.

#### A CHAIR UPDATE ON EARLY RESPONSE TO THE 2022 BRISBANE FLOODING EVENT

**520/2021-22**

1. The Civic Cabinet Chair provided the Committee an update on early response to the 2022 Brisbane flooding event. He provided the information below.

2. Council’s ferry network was impacted by the 2022 Brisbane flooding event and is expected to be out of operation for approximately three months. At present, eight CityCat vessels are on hardstand at Rivergate, undergoing damage assessment. One ferry, *Beenung-Urrung* sank on 29 February after being impacted by another vessel, and *Kuluwin* was damaged after detaching from its mooring and colliding with another vessel. Safety assessments and repairs are being carried out on the entire fleet.

3. All ferry terminals remain in place and will be assessed for damage once debris has been cleared. Swinging gangways were released at Holman Street, QUT (Queensland University of Technology), Milton and University of Queensland terminals. The decommissioned Thornton Street terminal, which was being used as an access point for construction workers on the Kangaroo Point Green Bridge, was swept away, and its underwater infrastructure will need to be decommissioned and removed. A hydrographic survey of the river and ferry terminals will be conducted by Maritime Safety Queensland. Ferry terminals will undergo a detailed structural assessment, including diver inspection.

4. Assessment of other infrastructure, including bikeways, is underway. Council has approximately 395 km of off-road bikeways in the city, and approximately 235 km was inundated with water, sustaining varying levels of damage.

5. Normal timetables have resumed on the bus network, after being significantly impacted during and immediately after the extreme weather. Approximately 25% of Council’s 72 driver facilities suffered extensive damage, and 319 vehicles supported the Mud Army 2.0. The Chair expressed thanks to bus operators and depot staff for their services to the residents of Brisbane during the extreme weather.

6. The Civic Cabinet Chair answered questions of the Committee.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES please, Infrastructure report.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Peter MATIC, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES, you have the floor.

Councillor WINES: Thank you. The Infrastructure Committee presentation on that particular meeting was about retaining walls and embankment reconstruction and rehabilitation. It was a presentation we’d had prepared for some time, but it became particularly timely and for no more Councillor than yourself, who had those issues in both Settlement Road and Mount Nebo Road, about retained walls. Now it’s a substantial program that’s undertaken by the division for the integral longevity of Council assets, but doesn’t necessarily get a lot of notice. That’s probably for the best, you probably want to know that your retaining walls are working. You probably don’t want to notice if they’re not, if that makes sense.

So a timely presentation in the end, because it actually was relevant to the flood recovery as well. So typically, reconstruction and rehabilitation works include constructions of roads, footpaths, bikeways, buildings and creek bank stabilisation. Retaining wall structures are erected to retain and excavated or filled embankment, retain soil at vertical or near-vertical slopes, steeper than the natural slope and prevent slope failure and control water runoff. Embankments and cuttings can be constructed by excavation and use a fill material to create a safer slope.

Council proactively manages retaining walls and embankments through routine inspection, visual inspections, elevated working platforms, rope access and drone footage. So it’s quite a bit of a way that we make sure that our retaining walls, because they can be quite high, are properly inspected for safety. If the deterioration is substantial and the asset is deemed to have reached the end of its serviceable life, a rehab option like significant repairs, full replacement or alternative designs are considered. Retaining walls and embankments that have instability issues may have the following visible defects. Cracking, overturning, slips, rockfalls, erosion and accumulation of loose material.

Weathering and erosion in particular can be caused by water from storms, runoff, waves, tides and infiltration, air, wind or chemical actions or reactions and vegetation. With natural assets facing the elements also, it is vital that our assets are continually monitored for potential impacts from those. When it comes to the design and rehabilitation of retaining structures, they can take various forms such as stone pitching, block walls, sleeper walls, crib walls, gabion baskets or piled walls and are used to support and retain materials often at a near-vertical slope that require less space than embankments.

Other rehabilitation strategies include slope regrading, erosion control, anchoring or pinning, shotcrete, secured mesh, which allows for a bolting mesh over a rockfall, allowing vegetation to grow and nature to take its course. The presentation was very thorough and was actually, as I said earlier, timely, considering the issues that were relevant for retention and keeping our roads open and our transport network operating properly. I look forward to further contributions.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Is there any further debate?

There’ll be no further debate, we’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Infrastructure Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Andrew Wines (Civic Cabinet Chair) Peter Matic (Deputy Civic Cabinet Chair), and Councillors Steve Griffiths, Fiona Hammond, Sarah Hutton and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – RETAINING WALL AND EMBANKMENT RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION

**521/2021-22**

1. The Program and Planning Manager, Program Planning and Integration, Brisbane Infrastructure, attended the meeting to provide an update on retaining wall and embankment reconstruction and rehabilitation. He provided the information below.

2. Retaining walls and embankments are typically required to support changes in levels for infrastructure and properties, found in:

- the construction of roads

- footpaths

- bikeways

- buildings

- creek bank stabilisation

- quarrying works.

3. A retaining wall is a structure erected to:

- retain an excavated or filled embankment

- retain soil at vertical or near-vertical slopes

- retain a slope that is steeper than the natural slope

- prevent slope failure and control water runoff.

4. Embankments and cuttings can be constructed by excavation, using fill material or a combination of both to create a batter slope. The slope of the batter varies depending on the properties of the materials used, with rock allowing almost-vertical faces with other softer materials at one-in-two or one-in-three batters.

5. Council proactively manages retaining walls and embankments through routine monitoring, inspections and undertaking minor maintenance. Inspections may be undertaken by the following means:

- visual inspection

- using an elevated working platform

- rope access

- using a drone.

6. Retaining walls and embankments undergo change and deterioration over time through natural and man‑made processes and cause instability issues. If the deterioration is substantial and the asset is deemed to have reached the end of its serviceable life, a rehabilitation option is determined. Rehabilitation options include:

- significant repairs

- replacement (like for like)

- seeking alternate design solutions.

7. Retaining walls and embankments that have instability issues may have the following visible defects:

- cracking

- overturning

- slips

- rockfalls

- erosion and accumulation of loose material.

8. Weathering and erosion is the process of breaking apart and moving small pieces of rock and soil, which can be caused by:

- water from storms, runoff, waves, tides and infiltration

- air, wind or chemical actions and reactions

- vegetation breaking structural weak points

- stresses occurring over time from quarrying or historical blasting work.

9. Retaining structures are used to support and retain materials often at a near-vertical slope and require less space than embankments. Retaining structures can take various forms, such as:

- stone pitching

- block walls

- sleeper walls

- crib walls

- gabions

- a piled wall.

10. Slope regrading is undertaken to reduce the vertical angle of the slope and increase slope length. This increases the slope footprint and may impact adjoining land users. Erosion control is undertaken to improve performance by using vegetated cover material over geosynthetic products, such as jute matting and GEOWEB. The confinement system and planting reinforces the soil and prevents erosion.

11. Rock scaling involves the removal of loose rocks by skilled personnel by hand or mechanical means. The benefits of scaling include the removal of rockfall hazards and minimising large unexpected and uncontrolled rock falls. The disadvantages of scaling include the rock face being moved continually backwards, further unravelling of the face may occur over time, and the need to undertake additional stabilisation works.

12. Anchoring or pinning involves the insertion of steel rods into the surface of the slope to stabilise and hold the slope in place. Often a face plate is used together with concrete to secure the bolt to the face. Due to the rod length, stabilisation methods which utilise pinning, bolting or anchoring may impact on adjoining properties. Owner’s consent or volumetric easements may be required.

13. Shotcrete involves drilling to insert dowels, place drains and mesh, and then finished with coloured and sculptured sprayed concrete. As with other anchoring and pinning options, the dowels used for securing the shotcrete into the slope may impact on adjoining properties.

14. The installation of mesh involves bolting the mesh above and below the area of instability. The mesh contains rockfalls and can be cleaned out as required. From a distance, the overall look of the cliff face is retained as natural processes can continue with vegetation growth.

1. A rockfall fence is erected at the base of the slope and provides a physical barrier that captures any fallen materials. Works to erect the fence do not interfere with the slope, however, ongoing maintenance to remove debris from behind the fence may be required.
2. Council conducted slope stabilisation at Montpelier Road, Bowen Hills. This site contained medium‑to‑large rock fragments due to tree root growth and heavy wet weather events. The solution utilised steel mesh with three-metre anchors, spaced two metres apart, to contain the large rock fragments.
3. Council conducted embankment stabilisation at Toorak Road, Hamilton. This site contained small‑to‑medium rock fragments as a result of tree root growth and weathering actions. The existing verge was made safe with temporary barricades. The design included coloured shotcrete to provide a more natural finish, and one-metre rod anchors were selected to minimise private property impacts and resumptions. Growth of established planting along the crest will provide ongoing improvement of the appearance and surroundings.

18. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Program and Planning Manager for his informative presentation.

19. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES, the report of the 8th please.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Councillor Andrew WINES, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Peter MATIC, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 8 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor WINES, you’ve got the floor.

Councillor WINES: Thank you. The Infrastructure Committee presentation was an opportunity for me to quickly update the Committee members about the division’s work in assisting locals affected by floods and how our recovery efforts have gone so far. In particular, how infrastructure assets and our road network and our transport network had fared as a result of the flood. Some of the early data collected by Council includes that there was about 314 kilometres of the road network flooded, with over 50 roads of significance closed and over 120 traffic signal faults recorded, with over 70 parking meters damaged or out of action.

One of Council’s most important reactive divisions is the BMTMC, the Brisbane Metropolitan Transport Management Centre, managing traffic, both unplanned and planned incidents and this is a particularly unplanned incident, providing traveller information through over 600-plus CCTV cameras and 1,100 Bluetooth vehicle detectors. It receives intelligence from within Council and other agencies and uses it to manage the wider network and liaise with other levels of government to ensure that our network works as effectively as possible.

Nothing this, from Saturday 26 February until Wednesday 2 March, the BMTMC managed 30 crashes, 155 abandoned, stationery or broken down vehicles, 119 flooded road jobs for major arterial and feeder roads and more than 1,300 phone calls. As mentioned earlier, there have been substantial effects on the road network and even to this day there is one road that is still yet to be opened.

That is Mount Nebo Road, which has a lot of rural features and there’s still a lot of work to go on that, in particular considering that there are 24 landslips along that corridor of various sizes, with around 15 of those classed as significant, with heights varying from eight to 15 metres and up to 50 cubic metres of spoil requiring to be removed from each of the locations.

But I can say that as of today, all roads but for Mount Nebo Road are open. I can also say that as of today, that all the traffic signals are operating under their normal power. It was earlier this morning that the final traffic signal box was no longer run by petrol generator. On the topic of traffic signals, during the flood 129 signals ceased operation. Of these, 78 were due to Energex power failures, 31 were due to flood damage and there were 20 faults which are yet to be determined, but are largely determined to be through things like communication faults. Also there were three signalised intersections where the lanterns went underwater as well.

By Sunday morning, 33 intersections were out of action and that number nearly doubled to 60 by Sunday evening. The peak of the intersections which were not operating was 129 across the entire city. Can I pay special tribute to the officers who worked very hard to make sure that those traffic signals were operational and that our traffic network could operate safely again. Our traffic signals were fully operational by Thursday evening of last week, with the final two sets of intersections to be done on Land Street at Toowong and Widdop Street at Nundah, both of which came into operation last Thursday.

We are still working to ensure that the proper operation of the traffic signals returns to normal. The traffic signals have two operations, there’s the standard operating timing and then there’s the optimised operating timing, which is how you get the traffic to move better during peak periods. You try and get more volume through it. As a result of some of this damage, they have reverted to a standard timing sequence, which means that the traffic system will be operating less efficiently than it normally would. But we are working through each of those to make sure that we optimise the operation of the network through the traffic signal timing.

There was flooding and moderate damage to many projects across the city. However, clean-up efforts have not required direct focus, other than those officers stationed on site. There are also three petitions for our consideration this evening, one on local area traffic management in Quinlan Street, Bracken Ridge. Another seeking a right turn ban from Gladstone Road into Prospect Terrace, Highgate Hill and Brook Street and Dorchester Street, South Brisbane. A petition requesting Council install traffic calming devices in Brentnall Street, Norman Park. I look forward to further contributions.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

Are there further speakers?

Councillor STRUNK.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak in regards to Clause A, the response to the 2022 flood event here in Brisbane. Let me first say what as I commenced at my last foray into debate in regards to the first—the economic development debate. That is that if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. I know the DEPUTY MAYOR made great points to say that I was blaming Council officers during that debate, but let me be very, very clear and I’ll say it very, very slowly this time and I think you’ll find the transcript will back me up on this. I don’t blame the officers for the decisions that were made, it rests with the Chairs, the DEPUTY MAYOR and the Mayor. The buck stops with you guys and not with the officers. So let me start with that.

Let me deal also with what I think we failed in regards to this particular report and that is road closures. Now during a presentation this morning in the Committee, we heard a little bit about road closures. I asked some questions of how that comes about when identifying what roads should be closed and how they should be closed and who makes that decision. There’s obviously some ambiguity when it comes to minor flooding, minor flooded roads as they call them.

There’s a bit of ambiguity or miscommunication or just not enough communication between what’s actually happening in the minor flooding of the roads in our wards and what gets communicated or gets accepted as something that is actually happening with the State Government and their processes to identify and then to broadcast. I understood that and I’m thinking well, obviously we’ve known that for a long time, that there is some disconnect there between the two levels of government in regards to identifying. I suggest the local Councillor would be a good one to verify that it’s actually happening.

So we were elected, we’re supposed to be believable through the various levels of government, so I don’t see why we can’t be tasked in doing that little role if that’s what it takes. But the other thing I thought was really done haphazardly or not done correctly was when they did close the road off, in some cases that I saw and in some cases it was reported to me once I was talking to people about this, is that the road closure signs weren’t actually put up. In some cases it’s maybe a little bit of safety tape across the road with a couple of cones, which probably works quite well in the daytime, but it doesn’t work well at night.

So I think that’s another issue and I’m sorry if this is whinging, DEPUTY MAYOR, but this is constructive criticism, I’ll put it. That’s my words, maybe not yours, but I think if we’re going to enter a debate, you don’t want me to just stand—or maybe you do want me to stand up and say you did everything perfect, great, keep going and we’ll keep failing in some aspects. That’s the other thing I said in the other debate, was I’m not saying you failed at everything but you failed at some things and those are the things I’m going to point out. Hopefully we’ll put a submission in to Justice de Jersey’s review and some of that will be sorted out. Thank you, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor STRUNK.

Further speakers?

Councillor SRI.

Councillor SRI: Thanks, Chair. I rise to speak on the report.

**Seriatim - Clause C**

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| Councillor Jonathan SRI requested that Clause C, PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL PROVIDE ‘NO RIGHT TURN’ SIGNS FROM GLADSTONE ROAD INTO PROSPECT TERRACE, HIGHGATE HILL, AND BROOK STREET AND DORCHESTER STREET, SOUTH BRISBANE, be taken seriatim for voting purposes. |

Councillor SRI: Just briefly on item A, I think I disagree with you slightly, Councillor STRUNK, in that it’s going to be pretty hard to close off and appropriately sign that many flooded intersections and flooded roads within a short space of time. I have some sympathy for the Administration on this, because I can see that as a logistical exercise it would be very, very difficult to get officers out to every single one of those intersections and install the appropriate signage.

But I do think there’s a lot of value in—and this is perhaps something that Councillor WINES and others could look at exploring in future, is setting up a more robust resident reporting system, where residents are able to report inundations or flooded intersections or broken intersections in a system that updates real-time. Google Maps has something similar to this, but it would be good for Council to have a process that’s a little more official and perhaps more reliable.

I noticed this myself on that weekend when the rains were coming down, where you could see that gradually as residents realised and reported via Google Maps that intersections were down, Google started to show that and started to reroute people accordingly via the maps. But there was a significant lag and a lot of extra traffic congestion and a lot of extra hassles were caused, particularly, on that Sunday, because people took a long time to work out which intersections were flooded and closed. I think there is an opportunity here, we talk a bit about smart cities and that sort of stuff.

There’s an opportunity here to use technology to crowdsource reporting of these sorts of incidents in a way that doesn’t have to be manually verified by a Council officer. Obviously, these sorts of resident reporting systems can have errors as well, but it would be a simple matter of saying look, this is a resident-reported system, we haven’t yet verified all these closures, but if 10 or 15 residents are all reporting that an intersection’s down, that becomes useful information that the Council should then share with other residents.

So Councillor WINES, I hope you’ll take that suggestion on board and think about that going forward. Because I completely agree that it’s not feasible for Council to close that many roads in such a short space of time, but maybe we can do a better job of supporting residents to alert one another, because even the traffic reports on ABC Radio, *et cetera*, couldn’t keep up.

Just turning to the petition at Clause C, I was really, really disappointed in how this one turned out. It’s a petition to basically ask for ‘no right turn’ signage on peak hour for a few residential side streets in Highgate Hill. We had literally dozens and dozens of residents, it was close to unanimous support for this change. For those who aren’t familiar with the context, these are residential side streets where you have to turn across two lanes of oncoming traffic on Gladstone Road.

So, 60 km/h speed limit environment, really fast and dangerous environment where cars are turning right across oncoming traffic and often not giving way to pedestrians who are crossing the side streets, *et cetera*. It’s quite a dangerous area. The Council officers, in my discussions with them, accepted that we wouldn’t design intersections and road corridors like this today and through you, Chair, Councillor WINES, I hope you’re really taking this on board. They noted that these designs of the way cars are turning right across multiple lanes of traffic wouldn’t be appropriate by today’s standards

But they said they couldn’t institute these peak hour right-hand turn bans because there wasn’t a strong enough crash history. That’s a familiar refrain that I’m sure a lot of Councillors have heard, but it’s really frustrating when as a local Councillor I can see that there’s a significant safety issue, residents are reporting a significant safety issue, even the officers acknowledge that the intersection designs are suboptimal, but Council refuses to make any changes on the basis that there’s not enough of a clear crash history.

So I think there’s a process problem here and a policy change that’s required, because if lots of residents are reporting the safety issue and the Councillor is also concerned about that as a matter of safety and the intersection is also not up to current design standards, that should be enough of a basis to institute changes, regardless of whether there’s been a big history of crashes reported via Queensland Police and Queensland Ambulance Service. So I’m a little disappointed in that aspect, but I’ll leave it at that. I won’t be supporting that petition response.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor SRI.

Councillor LANDERS.

Councillor LANDERS: Chair, I rise to speak on item B, a request for a review of the current local area traffic management plan for Quinlan Street in Bracken Ridge. Currently, this street has a 50 km speed limit between Depot Road and Barrett Street and a 40 km speed limit north of Barrett Street. Between 2011 and 2019, Council has investigated, consulted and implemented many traffic calming devices along Quinlan Street, including splitter islands with pedestrian refuges, several roundabouts and slow points, as well as a ‘left turn only’ onto Depot Road.

The petition requested ‘local traffic only’ signage, but these have already been installed on all entry points to the area, with signs in place at Depot Road, Barrett Street, Darragh Street, Sheaffe Street and Childs Street, which cover all entrances to Quinlan Street. To allow further assessment of traffic volumes and speeds on Quinlan Street, as requested by petitioners, a traffic survey will be undertaken between Childs Street and Barrett Street, and this data will be used to determine if any additional traffic calming measures are required.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor LANDERS.

Is there further debate?

Councillor McLACHLAN.

Councillor McLACHLAN: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on item A in this report and to applaud the work that was done by the BMTMC and the Congestion Reduction Unit in the course of this flooding event. I’ll take issue with a couple of things that Councillor SRI said, but also agree with some of the things that he said. In terms of the rainfall that fell on the city, there’s no doubt that in—and it may have been different in different parts of the city, but in terms of the impact on our road network, particularly, on the northside, this was clearly a one-in-200-year event or more, in terms of the volume of water that fell. That’s evidenced by the flooding that occurred on our major road networks in particular.

I believe that, to Councillor SRI’s point, to expect officers to get out to put signs on every flooded road as it occurs, is probably not the way that we are geared up to go in that sort of event. The best advice that people should follow is always going to come from radio, from disaster management systems on radio. The BMTMC is crucial in providing that advice to the traffic reporters, who do a fantastic job during these events. I listen to commercial radio, I listen to the ABC and I thought they did a fantastic job. If there wasn’t anybody who was aware that this was a significant flooding event, I don’t know where they were and that roads were going to be flooded, I don’t know where they were.

In my area, Deputy Chair—and this has been mentioned. So this is the front cover of my local monthly newspaper, *The Village News*—Amy Street, I’m not sure that signs anywhere there would have been useful in a situation where people are being evacuated in rubber duckies on Amy Street down near Breakfast Creek Hotel and all along the businesses on Sandgate Road. The businesses along there have all reported that this was a significant event, greater than anything that they’ve seen. The Manager of a business called Comet, the water was double the height of 2011, leaving cars submerged up to their rooves.

‘On par with 1974’, builder, Danny St Leger, says, ‘reckoned recent flooding was on a par with the floods of 1974. It’s nearly three times as much water as 2011’. Another business says this, he said ‘that the 2011 flood was a splash in the pan compared to this event’. Another proprietor in that area said ‘it was just so sad for the whole area. We put stock half a metre above the 2011 flood level, but it went above that’. Just some of the anecdotal evidence about what was happening in this area, which is evidenced by the flood marks on all the buildings in all this area.

The impact on our road network, yes, it was enormous. I believe that there was something like 25 million litres of water pumped out of the Inner City Bypass tunnel. It was closed for several days and it was back on track, but 25 million litres of water just shows the extent of the flooding that occurred in this area. This was a unique event. There have been comparisons with 2011, I lived through the 2011 flood in this city, and I know what I saw and I know what happened to my area. These areas in Albion got flooded then as well, but this was a much greater flood impact than we saw in our area in 2011.

The impact on the road network, the road infrastructure, was much greater as a consequence. I think the measures that have been taken since to get the road network operating again have been fantastic—laudable. The first objective was to get the roads open again so that the material could be got out and the businesses could get on with the job of cleaning up their premises so that they could get back into operation. So I’d just like to say thank you to the BMTMC, thank you to the Congestion Reduction Unit, thank you to all the officers in what was Field Services, now PPI (Program Planning and Integration), for their work on the roads.

Sorry, I was going back to my time as well, Councillor MARX, but fantastic that all the officers involved in the recovery did a fantastic job. Could things be done better, Councillor STRUNK? Well, yes, always, and that’s one of the issues that we’ll address during the review of the impacts of this flood. But I think it’s important to recognise right from the start that this was a significant and unique event, the likes of which we probably haven’t seen in this city in living memory, certainly since before 1974 and probably not back to the 1890s. Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor McLACHLAN.

Further speakers? I see no one rising.

Councillor WINES.

Councillor WINES: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. Very quickly I just want to respond to a couple of notes there. There was a great deal of effort put into making sure that we could get the road closed signs out as quickly and as well as we possibly could. But in many ways the reason that it wasn’t as effective as we’d like is pure logistics and the fact that often to reach these roads you had to get through other cut roads.

Our teams were unable, in many instances, to even reach those locations in the manner that we would normally have hoped. So that will be something under review, whether that can be done differently or better into the future, but it was a logistical matter, not a competence matter, I would say. It’s purely the ability of the team to get to the location was hampered by just the enormity of the sheer amount of roads that were cut at that point.

Also in response to Councillor SRI, can I draw the Council’s attention to paragraph or line 36—group 36, that responds to some of his concerns. He said that the reason that this proposal wasn’t supported by officers was to design issues and the issues around lack of accidents. The report says that the overall impact of implementing right-turn bans from Gladstone into Prospect, Brook and Dorchester Streets would result in all northbound traffic between Gladstone Road and Stephens Road to divert into Audenshaw, Emily and then to Ruth, which would subsequently increase traffic turning left from Ruth to Gloucester to access Stephens Road.

There’s no right turn permitted from Ruth Street into Prospect, and it’s not desirable to direct all traffic through one relatively modest street. That was the concern, was that if we were to close those three streets, where would the natural traffic go. Would it be all forced—would one street be penalised to the benefit of the other three and it wasn’t a position that I was comfortable with. That’s outlined within the report.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor WINES.

We’ll now put items A, B and D to the vote.

**Clauses A, B and D put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clauses A, B and D of the report of the Infrastructure Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

Deputy Chair: We’ll now put item C.

**Clause C put**

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of Clause C of the report of the Infrastructure Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Andrew Wines (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Peter Matic (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Steve Griffiths, Fiona Hammond, Sarah Hutton and Charles Strunk.

#### A CHAIR UPDATE ON EARLY RESPONSE TO THE 2022 BRISBANE FLOODING EVENT

**522/2021-22**

1. The Civic Cabinet Chair provided the Committee an update on early response to the 2022 Brisbane flooding event. He provided the information below.
2. Council continues to assist with recovery efforts to restore infrastructure. During the flood peak, the Brisbane Metropolitan Transport Management Centre (BMTMC) and Congestion Reduction Unit operated around the clock to maintain the road network as best possible. When the road network was no longer able to be maintained due to flooding, the BMTMC assisted the Queensland Police Service to identify flooded roads and provided intelligence to Council’s Local Disaster Coordination Centre. The BMTMC assisted up to 80 ‘water over road’ incidents and managed the closure of approximately 50 significant roads.
3. Up to 100 traffic signal faults were reported, which included significantly flooded intersections (where flood waters exceeded the traffic lights’ bulbs), which are the most difficult fault to repair and return to operation. There were a small number of intersections which required repair to return to normal operation.
4. During the flood peak, incidents coordinated by the BMTMC included 30 crashes, 155 abandoned vehicles and 34 debris removal jobs, with more than 1,300 phone calls received. Key roads were re‑opened for morning peak traffic conditions on 28 February 2022.
5. Initial assessment showed the most significant damage was sustained by Council’s bridge infrastructure. Although assessments are ongoing and the full extent of the damage is to be confirmed, most of the damage is limited to significant debris removal and barrier damage.
6. Embankments and retaining walls that were damaged due to excessive soil saturation, caused several landslips across the road network. The most significant landslips were located at Settlement Road, Keperra; Mt Nebo Road, The Gap; and Peewee Bend, Enoggera Reservoir, all of which are located within The Gap Ward. Work crews and excavation vehicles were on site to undertake repairs since the incident occurred, with the focus on making the area safe and open to traffic. Once opened, the sites will be assessed for long-term remediation options.
7. Council’s boardwalks have been assessed, with no major structural damage being observed at this stage. The New Farm Riverwalk remains closed to pedestrians while replacement of handrail panels, damaged mesh and glass panels is undertaken. It is anticipated that the Riverwalk will be reopened in mid-March.
8. Widespread potholes have occurred across the road network, which are being identified and repaired as soon as practicable. It is anticipated that areas of flood-damaged road pavement may have suffered some structural damage, which may contribute to premature deterioration and reduced lifespan. This damage will affect Council’s asset management strategy and future road re-surfacing plans on those roads.
9. There is ongoing assessment of on-street parking in flood-affected areas to determine the damage to parking meters. Early investigations show that up to 100 parking meter machines have been damaged and cannot be repaired. The areas which are most affected are Auchenflower and Milton. It is expected that additional parking meters will display faults due to water ingress when the parking meters are restarted. All parking meters will remain switched off until the end of March 2022.
10. There is potential damage to non-critical LED road safety signage, including approximately 12 Speed Awareness Management signs and school ‘slow down’ signs. No wildlife awareness signs have been identified as damaged.
11. Damage assessments have been undertaken at the following Council infrastructure project sites:

- Moggill Road Corridor Upgrade

- Newnham Road and Wecker Road intersection, Mount Gravatt

- Norris Road upgrade (Stage 2), Bracken Ridge

- Rochedale Road and Priestdale Road intersection, Rochedale

- Sir Fred Schonell Drive and Coldridge Street black spot project, St Lucia

- Gresham Street bridge replacement, Ashgrove

- Monier Road and Bellwood Street intersection, Darra

- Edinburgh Castle Road and Colac Street intersection, Kedron

- Boundary Road and Formation Street black spot project, Wacol

- Boundary Road and Skepper Street intersection, Ellen Grove

- Melton Road and Howes Road intersection, Nundah

- River Terrace pedestrian crossing, Kangaroo Point.

12. The Civic Cabinet Chair answered questions of the Committee.

13. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

#### B PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL REVIEW THE CURRENT LOCAL AREA TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR QUINLAN STREET, BRACKEN RIDGE, AND UNDERTAKE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC MONITORING AND CALMING MEASURES DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS

**CA21/775041**

**523/2021-22**

14. A petition from residents, requesting Council review the current Local Area Traffic Management Plan for Quinlan Street, Bracken Ridge, and undertake installation of traffic monitoring and calming measures due to safety concerns, was received during the Winter Recess 2021.

15. The petition contains 12 signatures. All of the petitioners live in the suburb of Bracken Ridge.

16. The A/Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

17. Quinlan Street has a 50 km/h speed limit between Depot Road and Barrett Street and a 40 km/h speed limit north of Barrett Street. Quinlan Street is classified as a neighbourhood access road under Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy, providing access to local residential properties, and has a bus route. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

18. The petitioners’ request for additional traffic calming devices on Quinlan Street, to reduce speeding and rat-running has been noted. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and traffic islands, are used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds, providing a safer environment for all road users. Traffic calming devices are generally applied to local and neighbourhood access roads, which primarily provide access to dwellings, residential buildings and other local streets with limited traffic movements.

19. Between 2011 and 2019, Council has investigated and, in consultation with the local residents, implemented numerous traffic calming devices along the length of Quinlan Street, including splitter islands with pedestrian refuges, a deflected T-intersection, roundabouts, and slow points.

20. However, to allow further assessment of traffic volumes and speeds on Quinlan Street, a traffic survey will be undertaken between Childs Street and Barrett Street. The traffic data from this traffic survey will be used to determine if any additional traffic calming measures are required when taking into account the use and expected traffic volumes.

21. Council receives many requests for worthy infrastructure projects across Brisbane and prioritisation is required to ensure potential funding is provided to those projects with the greatest benefit to the community.

22. The petitioners’ request to install ‘Local Traffic Only’ signage is also noted. Local Traffic Only signs are installed in accordance with the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* at entry points to local areas. Accordingly, Local Traffic Only signage is currently in place at the Depot Road entrance to Quinlan Street and on the Barrett Street, Darragh Street, Sheaffe Street and Childs Street entrances from Denham Street, covering all entrances to Quinlan Street. As such, no further Local Traffic Only signs are required to be installed.

23. To further promote road safety, Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM) signs are installed on Council roads. SAMs are installed for a minimum of one month and increase motorist awareness of their travelling speed by acting as a reminder to adhere to the speed limit. The citywide program has seen a decrease in the number of motorists travelling over the speed limit when passing the signs, with an average speed reduction of more than 8 km/h across all sites since the program began in 2013.

24. An existing footing for a SAM is located on Quinlan Street, approximately 120 m north of the intersection with Barrett Street, for northbound travelling motorists and was most recently installed between 1 September and 26 December 2020. During this period, 119,989 vehicles were recorded by the SAM with 85% of motorists travelling at or below the posted 40 km/h speed limit, indicating good compliance. A SAM will be rotated back to this location in line with the citywide rotational program.

25. Speeding and driving recklessly are behavioural issues. Enforcement of such behaviour is under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service as Council is unable to enforce moving traffic violations. Council will also be referring the results of the traffic survey to the Queensland Police if speeding is detected, to assist in targeted enforcement. The petitioners are encouraged to report speeding on Quinlan Street directly with the QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Consultation

26. Councillor Sandy Landers, Councillor for Bracken Ridge Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

27. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

28. The A/Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

29. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SUBMISSION BE NOTED AND THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** CA21/775041

Thank you for your petition requesting Council review the current Local Area Traffic Management Plan for Quinlan Street, Bracken Ridge, and undertake installation of traffic monitoring and calming measures due to safety concerns.

Your request for additional traffic calming devices on Quinlan Street, to reduce speeding and rat-running has been noted. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and traffic islands, are used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds, providing a safer environment for all road users. Traffic calming devices are generally applied to local and neighbourhood access roads, which primarily provide access to dwellings, residential buildings and other local streets with limited traffic movements.

Between 2011 and 2019, Council has investigated and, in consultation with the local residents, implemented numerous traffic calming devices along the length of Quinlan Street, including splitter islands with pedestrian refuges, a deflected T-intersection, roundabouts and slow points.

However, to allow further assessment of traffic volumes and speeds on Quinlan Street, a traffic survey will be undertaken between Childs Street and Barrett Street. The traffic data from this traffic survey will be used to determine if any additional traffic calming measures are required when taking into account the use and expected traffic volumes.

Council receives many requests for worthy infrastructure projects across Brisbane and prioritisation is required to ensure potential funding is provided to those projects with the greatest benefit to the community.

Your request to install ‘Local Traffic Only’ signage is also noted. Local Traffic Only signs are installed in accordance with the Queensland Government’s *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* at entry points to local areas. Accordingly, Local Traffic Only signage is currently in place at the Depot Road entrance to Quinlan Street and on the Barrett Street, Darragh Street, Sheaffe Street and Childs Street entrances from Denham Street, covering all entrances to Quinlan Street. As such, no further Local Traffic Only signs are required to be installed.

To further promote road safety, Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM) signs are installed on Council roads. SAMs are installed for a minimum of one month and increase motorist awareness of their travelling speed by acting as a reminder to adhere to the speed limit. The citywide program has seen a decrease in the number of motorists travelling over the speed limit when passing the signs, with an average speed reduction of more than 8 km/h across all sites since the program began in 2013.

An existing footing for a SAM is located on Quinlan Street, approximately 120 m north of the intersection with Barrett Street, for northbound travelling motorists and was most recently installed between 1 September and 26 December 2020. During this period, 119,989 vehicles were recorded by the SAM with 85% of motorists travelling at or below the posted 40 km/h speed limit, indicating good compliance. A SAM will be rotated back to this location in line with the citywide rotational program.

Speeding and driving recklessly are behavioural issues. Enforcement of such behaviour is under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service as Council is unable to enforce moving traffic violations. Council will also be referring the results of the traffic survey to the Queensland Police if speeding is detected, to assist in targeted enforcement. You are encouraged to report speeding on Quinlan Street directly with the QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Maheshi De Silva, A/Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3178 8841.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITIONS – REQUESTING COUNCIL PROVIDE ‘NO RIGHT TURN’ SIGNS FROM GLADSTONE ROAD INTO PROSPECT TERRACE, HIGHGATE HILL, AND BROOK STREET AND DORCHESTER STREET, SOUTH BRISBANE

**CA21/1017930 and CA21/1036444**

**524/2021-22**

30. Two petitions from residents, requesting Council provide ‘No Right Turn’ signs from Gladstone Road into Prospect Terrace, Highgate Hill, and Brook Street and Dorchester Street, South Brisbane, were presented to the meeting of Council held on 31 August 2021, by Councillor Jonathan Sri, and received.

31. The petitions contain a total of 93 signatures. Of the petitioners one lives in Stephens Road, South Brisbane, 62 live in Dorchester Street, 29 live in Prospect Terrace and one lives in Ruth Street, Highgate Hill.

32. The A/Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

33. The petitioners are requesting right-turn bans for northbound motorists due to concerns around increased traffic volume and vehicle speeds.

34. Gladstone Road is classified as an arterial road in Council’s Road hierarchy under *Brisbane City Plan 2014* (City Plan). The intended function of arterial roads on Brisbane’s road network is to carry high volumes of through traffic between major residential areas and employment centres. They also form critical links in Brisbane’s bus and freight network. Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street all perform as a neighbourhood access road function in City Plan, providing access to local residential properties and connecting Gladstone Road to Stephens Road. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

35. The petitioners’ request for right-turn bans from Gladstone Road into Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street has been noted. When implementing traffic calming measures, such as right-turn bans, Council considers a ‘whole-of-network’ approach.

36. The overall impact of implementing right-turn bans from Gladstone Road into Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street would result in all northbound traffic, between Gladstone Road and Stephens Road, to divert to Audenshaw Street and Emily Street, and then to Ruth Street, which would subsequently increase traffic turning left from Ruth Street to Gloucester Street to access Stephens Road, as there are no right turns permitted from Ruth Street into Prospect Terrace. It is not desirable to direct all traffic this way as it would likely cause motorist confusion, due to a long detour and add to congestion.

37. In addition, a right-turn ban is already implemented from Gladstone Road into Gloucester Street. Gloucester Street leads to Stephens Road, a major connection, so implementing further right-turn bans on the network will affect the volumes of traffic that have access to this road, which is an undesirable outcome.

38. The petitioners’ concerns about increased traffic volumes have been noted. Traffic counts were undertaken in Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street earlier this year. The vehicle volumes in these streets were 1,713 vehicles per weekday (vpwd), 1,460 vpwd and 1,111 vpwd respectively. As these streets provide access to the nearby schools of Sommerville House and St Laurence’s College via Stephens Road, moderate to high traffic volumes are expected, especially during peak periods. As such, the traffic volumes on Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street are all considered to be well within acceptable limits for neighbourhood streets as per City Plan.

39. A review of the Queensland Government’s crash data over the last five years has been undertaken for Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street which showed no crashes during this time. This indicates there are no safety concerns with the current road configuration.

40. Due to the detrimental effect on the road network, Council does not support the installation of ‘No Right Turn’ signs from Gladstone Road into Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street.

41. The petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with the Queensland Police Service via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Consultation

42. Councillor Jonathan Sri, Councillor for The Gabba Ward, has been consulted and does not support the recommendation.

Customer impact

43. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

44. The A/Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

45. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SUBMISSION BE NOTED AND THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** CA21/1017930 and CA21/1036444

Thank you for your petitions requesting Council provide ‘No Right Turn’ signs from Gladstone Road into Prospect Terrace, Highgate Hill, and Brook Street and Dorchester Street, South Brisbane.

Your request for right-turn bans from Gladstone Road into Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street has been noted. When implementing traffic calming measures, such as right turn bans, Council considers a ‘whole-of-network’ approach.

The overall impact of implementing right-turn bans from Gladstone Road into Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street would result in all northbound traffic, between Gladstone Road and Stephens Road, to divert to Audenshaw Street and Emily Street, and then to Ruth Street, which would subsequently increase traffic turning left from Ruth Street to Gloucester Street to access Stephens Road, as there are no right turns permitted from Ruth Street into Prospect Terrace. It is not desirable to direct all traffic this way as it would likely cause motorist confusion, due to a long detour and add to congestion.

In addition, a right-turn ban is already implemented from Gladstone Road into Gloucester Street. Gloucester Street leads to Stephens Road, a major connection, so implementing further right-turn bans on the network will affect the volumes of traffic that have access to this road, which is an undesirable outcome.

Your concerns about increased traffic volumes have been noted. Traffic counts were undertaken in Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street earlier this year. The vehicle volumes in these streets were 1,713 vehicles per weekday (vpwd), 1,460 vpwd and 1,111 vpwd respectively. As these streets provide access to the nearby schools of Sommerville House and St Laurence’s College via Stephens Road, moderate to high traffic volumes are expected, especially during peak periods. As such, the traffic volumes on Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street are all considered to be well within acceptable limits for neighbourhood streets as per *Brisbane City Plan 2014*.

A review of the Queensland Government’s crash data over the last five years has been undertaken for Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street which showed no crashes during this time. This indicates there are no safety concerns with the current road configuration.

Due to the detrimental effect on the road network, Council does not support the installation of ‘No Right Turn’ signs from Gladstone Road into Prospect Terrace, Brook Street and Dorchester Street.

You are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with the Queensland Police Service via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Kiran Sreedharan, Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3178 1178.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

#### D PETITION – REQUESTING COUNCIL INSTALL TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICES ON BRENTNALL STREET, NORMAN PARK

**137/220/594/49**

**525/2021-22**

46. A petition from residents, requesting Council install traffic calming devices on Brentnall Street, Norman Park, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 7 December 2021, by Councillor Kara Cook, and received.

47. The petition contains 57 signatures. Of the petitioners, 50 live in Morningside Ward, and seven live in other wards in the City of Brisbane.

48. The A/Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

49. Brentnall Street has a speed limit of 50 km/h and is classified as a neighbourhood road in Council’s *Brisbane City Plan 2014* road hierarchy, providing access to local residential properties. Attachment B (submitted on file) shows a locality map.

50. The petitioners’ request for traffic calming measures on Brentnall Street, to prevent rat running between Norman Avenue and Agnew Street, has been noted. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and chicanes, is used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds, providing a safer environment for all road users. Traffic calming devices are generally applied to local and neighbourhood access roads, which primarily provide access to dwellings, residential buildings and other local streets, with limited traffic movements.

51. Council considers the installation of traffic calming devices only where there is a combination of both a demonstrated widespread issue of non-local traffic utilising the street and where there is a demonstrated speeding issue. Speeding issues alone are not sufficient to consider the use of traffic calming devices as speeding is observed to some extent in all streets throughout Brisbane.

52. Council undertook an investigation for traffic calming in this area in 2013, which identified traffic calming would be beneficial, including Brentnall Street. The Overend Street Precinct Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Scheme was proposed and went to residents for consultation in 2014. Attachment C (submitted on file) shows the consultation plan. However, the outcome of consultation was that all proposed traffic calming devices were not supported by local residents adjacent to where traffic calming devices were proposed to be installed. As such, only the roundabout was installed at the intersection of Brentnall and Overend Streets, as this was the only supported traffic calming device from the Overend Street Precinct LATM Scheme.

53. Accordingly, Council will conduct a new traffic survey in Brentnall Street, once traffic conditions return to normal this year. The data will be used to determine if traffic calming devices in Brentnall Street are still warranted.

54. Speeding is a behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). As such, the petitioners are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with the QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

Consultation

55. Councillor Kara Cook, Councillor for Morningside Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer impact

56. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

57. The A/Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

58. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS SUBMISSION BE NOTED AND THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/49

Thank you for your petition requesting Council install traffic calming devices on Brentnall Street, Norman Park.

Your request for traffic calming measures on Brentnall Street to prevent rat running between Norman Avenue and Agnew Street, has been considered. The installation of traffic calming devices, such as speed platforms and chicanes, is used to discourage use from non-local traffic and to moderate vehicle speeds, providing a safer environment for all road users. Traffic calming devices are generally applied to local and neighbourhood access roads, which primarily provide access to dwellings, residential buildings and other local streets, with limited traffic movements.

Council considers the installation of traffic calming devices only where there is a combination of both a demonstrated widespread issue of non-local traffic utilising the street and where there is a demonstrated speeding issue. Speeding issues alone are not sufficient to consider the use of traffic calming devices as speeding is observed to some extent in all streets throughout Brisbane.

Council undertook an investigation for traffic calming in this area in 2013, which identified traffic calming would be beneficial, including Brentnall Street. The Overend Street Precinct Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Scheme was proposed and went to residents for consultation in 2014. However, the outcome of consultation was that all proposed traffic calming devices were not supported by local residents adjacent to where traffic calming devices were proposed to be installed. As such, only the roundabout was installed at the intersection of Brentnall and Overend Streets, as this was the only supported traffic calming device from the Overend Street Precinct LATM Scheme.

Accordingly, Council will conduct a new traffic survey in Brentnall Street, once traffic conditions return to normal this year. The data will be used to determine if traffic calming devices in Brentnall Street are still warranted.

Speeding is a behavioural issue under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service (QPS). As such, you are encouraged to raise any concerns with speeding motorists directly with the QPS via the Hoon Hotline on 13 HOON (13 46 66).

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Melvin Boh, A/Senior Transport Network Officer, Transport Network Operations, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3178 0987.

Thank you for raising this matter.

**ADOPTED**

Councillor LANDERS: Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: Councillor LANDERS.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

|  |
| --- |
| **526/2021-22**  At that time, 6.07pm, it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the meeting adjourn for a period of one hour, to commence only when all Councillors had vacated the Chamber and the doors had been locked.  Council stood adjourned at 6.15pm. |

**UPON RESUMPTION:**

Deputy Chair: Councillor ALLAN, Infrastructure please.

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Fiona HAMMOND that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Chair. At the meeting on 1 March, the Committee received a presentation on the Creative Lighting program run out of Design Brisbane. This term we have three major projects in the Creative Lighting program, namely Oxford Street, Mowbray Park and Nundah Village.

We recently completed the Oxford Street project in Bulimba, which installed a series of illuminated artworks that lined the popular Oxford Street shopping precinct, as well as two large, bud-lit Hoop Pines at the corner of Riddell and Oxford Street.

The series of 10 stylised light boxes designed by artist, Belinda Smith, drew inspiration from the iconic Peewee bird, or the Magpie as we commonly call it. It represents their lifelong partnerships and the importance of working together. The local business association was greatly involved in the project and the unveiling of the artworks was celebrated at their community Up Late event. This project has been a fantastic addition to the local precinct, bringing new interest and activity for the location and helping the nighttime traders.

The next project which Council is currently undertaking is in Mowbray Park at East Brisbane. After undertaking extensive consultation with the community, Council received strong support for lighting the large, mature fig trees along the park pathway beside the river.

We’ve progressed with a series of chandelier icicle lighting and traditional bud‑lighting, which will create a vibrant and enchanting space, as well as address some nighttime safety issues. I look forward to seeing this project come to life in the near future.

The last project on the list is Nundah Village and investigations and stakeholder consultation will commence shortly. There are some really great opportunities for lighting in this location and I look forward to plans coming together and seeing what the community favours.

I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN.

Is there any further debate?

There being none, I’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Adam Allan (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Fiona Hammond (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Kara Cook, Peter Matic and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – CREATIVE LIGHTING UPDATE

**527/2021-22**

1. The Design Brisbane Manager, City Planning and Economic Development, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on the Creative Lighting program (the program). He provided the information below.

2. The program is part of Council’s Village Precinct Projects within Future Brisbane, Program 4.2.3.1 of the budget. There are three Lord Mayoral projects to be delivered over three financial years (2020-21 to 2022-23), with a total budget of $900,000. The current projects of the program are located at:

- Oxford Street, Bulimba – completed

- Mowbray Park, East Brisbane – to be delivered by June 2022

- Nundah Village – commencing in April 2022, for delivery in 2022-23.

3. The program aligns with guiding principles from *Brisbane’s Future Blueprint*: Create a city of neighbourhoods and Create more to see and do. The 12 values and alignments from Council’s *Design‑led City – a design strategy for Brisbane,* also guided the program, in particular, the values of Safe, Sense of place, Subtropical, Diverse, Healthy and Responsive. Council engages consistently with project partners, stakeholders and the local community, and utilise the wider design and art industry for collaborative delivery.

4. The project for Oxford Street, Bulimba, was activated in September 2021 (bud lighting) and in November 2021 (illuminated artworks). There were two main planned elements for Oxford Street:

- a series of illuminated artworks for ‘Duet’, a series of 10 stylised lightboxes perched along Oxford Street, combining lighting with public art to:

- bring more people and economic benefit to the area

- build a connection to the area

- enhance the precinct’s local identity

- provide lighting opportunities for local businesses and landmarks to be easily identified or discovered.

- three bud-lit large hoop pines located on the corner of Riddell and Oxford Streets, creating a vibrant gateway and providing a striking nighttime ambiance to the busy centre.

5. Duet, by artist Belinda Smith, involves a highly visual, playful placemaking scheme, comprising of five different pairs of ‘peewee’ birds and two Oxford Street signs. Each of the 10 peewees have slight differences such as direction orientation, pattern variations, tail, feather and face markings.

6. The suburb name of Bulimba originated from the Yuggera/Goenpul words ‘bulum’ (magpie‑lark) and ‘ba’ (place of), and the term peewee also refers to magpie-lark. Peewees form lifelong partnerships and sing and dance united against territorial intruders, and, like a duet, remind us about the importance of working together.

7. The Oxford Street Business Association (OSBA) requested signage as part of the project and Council led the integration of precinct identifier signage on two of the illuminated artworks, one opposite Bulimba Memorial Park and the other at the Oxford Street/Hawthorne Road roundabout.

8. The second element of the Oxford Street project is the installation of bud lighting to three significant pine trees in the heart of the area, complimenting the Duet illuminated artwork. The bud lighting is visible from the east entrance to Oxford Street and provides a high-impact and a visually-strong gateway feature that adds to the nighttime ambiance.

9. To promote the project, Belinda Smith and the project team created a free peewee poetry and print activity for businesses and local residents on 2 September 2021, in conjunction with OSBA’s Up Late event for an ‘eat, shop, play’ experience for the community. The activity was very well received and well attended, which involved the creation of peewee lino prints and poetry from attendees inspired by their stories and connection to home/place. The activity was then held again at Bulimba Library during National Bird Week. The Committee was shown photos of the peewee illuminated signage, bud lighting and peewee poetry and print activity, along with images of positive social media response.

10. Mowbray Park, East Brisbane, is a State Heritage-listed park in close proximity to the city and Kangaroo Point, situated on a bend of the Brisbane River (the river) opposite New Farm, and includes the Mowbray Park ferry terminal. Mowbray Park is a green enclave bordered by Lytton Road and the river, offering attractive day and nighttime viewing of the cityscape and Story Bridge.

11. Mowbray Park includes 3.2 hectares of tree-lined paths and lawns, including significant vegetation, such as well-established eucalypts, kauri pines and hoop pines. A row of five mature fig trees along a park pathway, framed by the river, is the focus for the creative lighting enhancement. The area around the mature fig trees is well-used and features BBQs, tables, a playground and river paths. It is also used as a wedding, party and event space.

12. The key aims of the Mowbray Park project are to:

- showcase the fig trees, highlighting their form and character

- create a striking nighttime feature visible from the river and adjacent riverbank

- activate the gathering space around the fig trees, bringing people together to celebrate Brisbane’s outdoor lifestyle

- create an innovative pedestrian experience around the tree forms

- increase the perception of safety in this part of the park.

13. In July 2021, community consultation was undertaken, which included an ‘ideas tool’ for community feedback on creative lighting. Council received largely positive feedback and strong support for creative lighting, with perceptions of the park being unsafe at night and having poor lighting.

14. An extensive concept design was undertaken with lighting designers and the scheme is currently in pre‑start stage with the detailed design confirmed. Installation is expected to be completed by mid-2022, subject to State Heritage Exemption Certificate approval. Signage will be in place during the installation period to raise awareness of the works and the creative lighting. Once completed, the creative lighting will include warm chandelier icicle lighting and bud lighting, combined with cool white accents dressing the trees. The lighting will create a vibrant, illuminated and enchanting space in and around the fig trees that is highly visible from the river and New Farm. The Committee was shown a site plan of Mowbray Park and photos of the park, fig trees and creative lighting.

15. Nundah Village is the third creative lighting project in the current program, and is scheduled to be delivered by mid-2023, with investigations and stakeholder consultation commencing in April 2022. The Committee was shown photos of Nundah Village.

16. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Design Brisbane Manager for his informative update.

17. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor ALLAN, could we have the report of 8 March, please.

### CITY PLANNING AND SUBURBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Adam ALLAN, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Fiona HAMMOND that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 8 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor ALLAN.

Councillor ALLAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. In the meeting of 8 March, I provided a bit of an update on the City Planning and Suburban Renewal contribution to the flood response. The team was also obviously—needed to be conscious of the BAU activities. We have a raft of activities that we undertake, particularly, in Development Services where we have to be in the field and have to support key projects across the city.

So, while we were obviously very keen to support flood recovery activities, we couldn’t take our eye off the important work that sections of—particularly, of Development Services undertake to support the construction industry in the city.

During the week beginning 28 February, when the waters started to subside, we had a number of the leadership team in Development Services contributing to the LDCC, so I’d like to thank those officers for their support there and that was highlighted during the Committee presentation. We also had quite a number of volunteers from Development Services and City Planning in general, who donated their time to support the Mud Army operations.

I would also raise the point during the Committee update, that there were Council officers who were impacted by the floods and I think that we need to be conscious of the fact that a number of those individuals have a challenge, obviously, to rebuild after the floods.

So, specifically turning to Development Services, we have a number of statutory obligations that we need to fulfil, particularly, around DAs (development applications) where we need to meet certain timeframes. It was important that notwithstanding the challenges we were facing as a city, that we continued to meet our statutory obligations. I’m glad to say we did that.

There were obviously a range of normal services that we needed to continue to conduct, like Prelodgement Services. Our Planning Information Officers needed to be active on the phones; our Plumbing Services team needed to be in the field, though we did have a number of cancellations in that week of 28 February, as you’d expect, but nonetheless, they were—needed to be there.

Our Engineering Compliance guys were active, the Building Construction Management Taskforce were active and they continue to do the work that is required to keep projects moving along.

I did also specifically touch upon the Engineering Services team, who played a key role in helping to support the modelling, the analysis and real time updates on river levels and flooding impacts across the city. Obviously, they contributed greatly in that regard. So, a really terrific support from the Development Services team, not only in supporting the flood recovery and the flood management piece, but also continuing to meet their BAU activities.

We also had quite significant volumes through the Development Services unit. We did—90 DA applications were completed; we undertook—650 plumbing permits were completed, so big numbers and so the work was still being done.

On the City Planning front, we continue to push ahead with key projects, admittedly with somewhat reduced capacity, so neighbourhood plans and village precinct projects work continued. Certainly, while we did see some dilution of our capacity during the flood period, the BAU activity continued to move ahead, perhaps not at the pace that we’re used to, but they will quickly pick that up, and I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor ALLAN, further speakers?

No one rising, I’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the City Planning and Suburban Renewal Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Adam Allan (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Fiona Hammond (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Kara Cook, Peter Matic and Charles Strunk.

#### A CHAIR UPDATE ON EARLY RESPONSE TO THE 2022 BRISBANE FLOODING EVENT

**528/2021-22**

1. The Civic Cabinet Chair provided the Committee an update on early response to the 2022 Brisbane flooding event. He provided the information below.

2. Officers within Council’s City Planning and Sustainability (CPaS) have been involved in flood recovery and flood related activities; volunteering their time to assist with the Local Disaster Coordination Centre or Mud Army operations. Despite this, CPaS has been able to continue with key projects and Council functions.

3. While the flooding event has caused an impact to Development Services, CPaS, their activities and services, such as building and construction and pre‑lodgement services, have continued to meet legislative requirements and statutory timeframes. The Planning Information Office has continued to take calls and enquiries from the community, and the Planning Services team have been active and continue to undertake inspections. Engineering Compliance and the Building and Construction Management Team (BCMT) have also continued to be busy and active.

4. During the week following the flooding event:

- Council received:

- 86 new development applications, with 90 being completed

- 79 new siting variation applications, with 65 being completed

- nine new plan sealing applications, with 10 being completed.

- the BCMT:

- undertook 14 new investigations, with 23 being completed

- received 21 new Operational Works applications, with 31 being completed

- created 138 plumbing permits, with 650 being closed

- undertook 536 plumbing inspections.

5. In the City Planning projects area, key projects, including neighbourhood plans and Village Precinct Projects, continue to progress.

6. The Civic Cabinet Chair answered questions of the Committee.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor James Mackay, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor DAVIS, you’ve got the call.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Deputy Chair. Item A was a presentation on Brisbane’s sustainable water use. The Schrinner Council has a longstanding commitment to sustainable water use and our clean, green and sustainable strategy highlights the city’s key sustainability achievements.

Mr Chair, I am conscious that as we speak, many people in Brisbane are still dealing with the aftermath of the floods, but we don’t control nature and although Brisbane was inundated with flood waters just a night ago, the fact is, that until recently, South East Queensland over previous years has been under water stress with low rainfall in our dam catchments.

The recent rainfall has resulted in the water grid sitting at 90%, however, Council will continue its investment in sustainable water use to minimise the impact of any future droughts in the city. Council’s strategic approach to sustainable water use includes monitoring water use, reducing water use and replacing potable water with non‑potable water, where practical.

One of the ways we do this is through the Resilient Clubs Support program, which is delivered in partnership with the Brisbane Sustainability Agency. This project is currently working with 174 sites across Brisbane.

Other initiatives have included establishing a koala fodder plantation in Wacol, which includes an irrigation system designed to provide drought protection and lengthened leaf production capacity to support local wildlife carers. We have also been designing and installing an array of stormwater harvesting systems across Brisbane since 2006, for the purpose of more efficient sports field irrigation. Another water smart project is the Better Shade Trees for Brisbane project, which aims to achieve a 50% shade target for footpaths and bikeways in residential areas by 2031.

The project will trial three new water smart street tree technologies on a controlled group of street trees, over a three-year period, including soak pits to capture water and stormwater runoff, Greenwell water wells, and tree frames which hold water and mulch around tree bases, and which will reduce the frequency of watering cycles and provide a more sustainable way to capture and use stormwater. Based on early trials, these technologies are showing promising signs of improving tree growth and canopy cover.

Council has also begun to strategically deploy smart water metres on multiple asset types, including high water using facilities such as pool, parks, gardens and depots. To date, 70 smart water meters have been installed at 30 locations across a variety of Council properties to provide water use in sites and more installations are planned.

While our city recovers from the recent floods, the Schrinner Council is ensuring that we are investing in sustainable ways to mitigate the effects of droughts and use our water resources efficiently in the future.

Deputy Chair, item B, the Committee received a submission to formally name the sporting node at Booker Place Park Bellbowrie as ‘Stegeman’s Sporting Complex’ after Mr Tony and Mrs Lorraine Stegeman. I know Councillor ADERMANN is very supportive and very pleased that these two dedicated community members in Pullenvale Ward are being recognised.

Item C was a petition requesting that Council rename the wetland area of Donaldson Street Park, Norman Park, to ‘Kulpurum Saltmarsh Reserve’. Council received a petition with 318 signatures requesting that Council rename the wetland area of Donaldson Street Park and the local Councillor was in full support, and I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS.

Further speakers?

Councillor ADERMANN.

Councillor ADERMANN: Yes, thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak in support of item B, the name of the sporting node within Booker Place Park, Bellbowrie, to ‘Stegeman Sporting Complex’. Tony and Lorraine Stegeman’s association with the Bellbowrie Sports and Community Club is well known within my local community and when I outline it to the Chamber, I’m sure Councillors will agree this is a worthy recognition.

Deputy Chair, the Bellbowrie Sports and Community Club was built in 1984, with many residents from the area, including Tony and Lorraine, donating funds to help with its construction. The initial club building had no cooking facilities so on Friday nights between 1984 and 1999, when sport was being played, Tony, Lorraine and other volunteers operated a makeshift, sideline canteen. The famous Stegger’s Burger remains a staple on the club’s menu today.

Their generosity extended to loaning the club funds towards sealing the leased carpark and in 1998, they mortgaged their family home to finance a new kitchen and refurbishment of the club’s bar area. Tony was very heavily involved in the administration of the club and apart from an absence between 2006 and 2009, was on the club’s committee from 1987.

He was the club’s gaming nominee—the liquor licensee when the club was granted its license in 1994, and was responsible for the associated compliance. He also undertook the club’s bookkeeping responsibilities.

In the period of his absence, the club suffered some dramatic financial losses and Tony was asked to return to oversee all operations, including finance. With Tony’s dedication and countless hours of unpaid time, this debt was cleared in 2020, enabling the club to become viable again. Without the support of a consistent and stable committee, and the committee laying their trust in Tony, this could not have been achieved.

Acting Chair, Tony and Lorraine have been recognised with the following awards in acknowledgement of their contribution to the community; in 1989, Lorraine was awarded a Community Service Award from the club; in 1995, Tony was awarded a Bellbowrie Sports and Community Club life membership; and in 2000, Tony was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia and an Australian Sporting Achievement award.

There has been strong community support for the sporting node to be named to acknowledge Mr and Mrs Stegeman’s contributions to the club and the community and it was my pleasure to lend my support to this request. Acting Chair, in conclusion, I should note that the naming of the Stegeman Sporting Complex covers the fields utilised by the Moggill Cricket Club, the Bellbowrie Touch Football Club, the Moggill Football Club, but I stress, this excludes the main soccer field.

Councillors may recall that last year I spoke in support of the main field in front of the sports and community club being named in honour of long-term Moggill Football Club stalwart, Simon Clark. Together with members of the Clark family, we unveiled the new signs there just before Christmas and that will forever be known as Simon Clark field.

I look forward to seeing members of the Stegeman family unveil their own signage nearby sometime in the near future. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor ADERMANN

Are there any further speakers?

With no one getting to their feet, Councillor DAVIS?

In that case, we shall put the vote to the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Tracy Davis (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor James Mackay (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Steve Griffiths, Sandy Landers and David McLachlan.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – SUSTAINABLE WATER USE

**529/2021-22**

1. The A/Manager, Water, Energy and Environmental Systems, Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, attended the meeting to provide an update on sustainable water use. She provided the information below.

2. Council has a long-standing commitment to sustainable water use, producing its first integrated water strategy in 2007, then adopting the WaterSmart Strategy in 2010.

3. Following changes in water governance in South East Queensland (SEQ) through the establishment of dedicated water service providers (Seqwater and Urban Utilities), Council also adopted Brisbane’s Total Water Cycle Management Plan in 2013 to align Council’s water agenda with dedicated water service providers.

4. *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031* highlights the city’s key sustainability achievements and outlines targets and commitments to drive Council towards a cleaner, greener and more sustainable city. The strategy highlights Council’s commitment to sustainable water use, noting that water is Brisbane’s most precious natural resource and central to the city’s identity and liveability. One of the key goals of the strategy is for Brisbane to be a resilient, water-smart city that uses water sustainably and protects its waterways.

5. Council’s strategic approach to sustainable water use includes:

- monitoring water use

- reducing water use, where possible

- replacing potable water with non-potable water, where practical.

6. Council promotes being water smart to enable Brisbane’s residents, businesses, environment, infrastructure and services to be managed in a way that ensures the city is prepared, adaptable and resilient to drought, floods and a changing climate.

7. Seqwater has prepared a drought response that is adaptive to allow actions and triggers to adjust to demand, climate, severity of drought and other external factors. Through Seqwater’s Water Security Program, the drought response phase is activated when SEQ reaches less than 60% capacity in the water grid. When the water grid reaches 50% capacity, water restrictions come into effect, with a strong focus on education rather than enforcement.

8. Until recently, SEQ has been under water stress over previous years, with low rainfall in dam catchments. A graph was shown to the Committee showing the historical levels of the water grid, noting recent response measures put in place, such as in November 2019, where the water grid dropped to below 60% for the first time since the Millennium drought; and recent rainfall resulting in the water grid sitting at 90%. Council will continue its investment in sustainable water use to minimise the impact of any future drought.

9. The Resilient Clubs Support Program is a Council initiative delivered in partnership with the Brisbane Sustainability Agency. The program is fully-funded by Brisbane City Council and is provided as a free service to community organisations, with participating clubs receiving a detailed Water and Energy Efficiency Action Plan that they can implement over time, helping them to reduce water use under drought conditions.

10. The program is currently working with 174 sites and supports clubs by:

- identifying and implementing practical options to optimise water use, energy use, irrigation and turf management

- providing education material to increase awareness

- directly financing certain activities in the short-term, such as fixing leaks and installing more water efficient fixtures

- helping clubs connect with future grant opportunities.

11. In 2018, Brisbane City Council established a koala fodder plantation to support local wildlife carers with a reliable food source for sick and injured native wildlife. Eight thousand trees were established at Wacol on fertile alluvial soils close to the Brisbane River, with an irrigation system designed to provide drought protection and lengthened leaf production capacity if required.

12. The driver for irrigation was to protect Council’s initial investment in the tree crop, and the use of non‑potable water from nearby dams means the plantation does not depend upon the SEQ water grid. The water is applied using a solar-powered, variable-speed water pump, with a dripline buried under mulch delivering water directly to the root zone. The mulch is mostly recycled material from the harvesting exercise, which retains soil moisture and significantly reduces evaporation.

13. The site has also provided opportunity for the development of soil moisture monitoring trials to determine the most suitable way to monitor soil moisture and the results have been shared with other Council operations that are interested in soil moisture as a management and monitoring tool.

14. Since 2006, approximately 30 stormwater harvesting systems of varying scales have been designed and installed across Brisbane for the purpose of sports field irrigation. They have included small-scale, single‑field systems, as well as large systems servicing up to six sporting facilities each with multiple fields.

15. Stormwater harvesting systems provide storage for stormwater and feature natural systems such as wetlands and lagoons, an example of this is the stormwater harvesting asset built at Ekibin Park East, Greenslopes. Previously, an open drain ran along the boundary of Ekibin Park East and the stormwater harvesting asset has created a safe pool that provides visual amenity to the neighbourhood and a home for native fauna whilst capturing more than 20 megalitres per annum of stormwater that can be used to irrigate the sports fields of two local clubs.

16. Ekibin Park East was formerly the site of Little Swamp Creek and was one of five stormwater harvesting systems built in the Norman Creek catchment. Council secured Federal grant funding in 2013 that funded the design and installation of seven large stormwater harvesting sites across the city.

17. The Better Shade Trees for Brisbane project (the project) supports one of the goals of Council’s *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-2031* strategy, which aims to achieve a 50% shade target for footpaths and bikeways in residential areas by 2031 and supports Council’s Greener Suburbs program.

18. The project will trial three new WaterSmart Street Tree (WSST) technologies on a controlled group of street trees over a three year period. Based on early trials, WSST technology is estimated to improve tree growth and canopy cover. The three water-saving initiatives being trialled are:

- ‘Soak Pit’, which captures stormwater runoff from the road and diverted to a gravel pit that slowly releases water into the ground

- ‘Greenwell’, a commercially available product designed to hold water and mulch around the base of the tree in a circular raised plastic guard, which has a capacity of approximately 26 litres

- ‘Tree Frame’, another commercially available product also designed to hold water and mulch around the base of the tree, but in a square raised plastic guard that has a capacity of approximately 100 litres.

19. Newly planted street trees require 21 watering visits in the first year with the current program relying on potable water. Installing these devices will reduce watering requirements down to approximately six visits, with attendant savings in watering costs.

20. Council engaged an external consultant to conduct a water use audit (the audit) of 35 key assets in 2020 that accounted for approximately 50% of Council’s water use. A consistent recommendation from the consultants was that Council begin to deploy smart water meters to more efficiently manage water use.

21. Council has begun to strategically deploy smart water meters on multiple asset classes with an emphasis on high water-using facilities including pools, parks, gardens and depots. To date, 70 smart water meters have been installed at 30 locations across a variety of Council properties to provide water use insights, with more installations planned. The information provided by the meters has led to changes in operation at many of the pools.

22. The audit also recommended that Council deploy more soil moisture sensors and automated irrigation systems in its park and gardens, as it was identified that over watering could be taking place in some Council assets such as sports fields, golf courses and parks. Council has been investing in soil moisture sensors as part of automated irrigation systems and is now trialling the use of portable and permanent soil moisture sensors with an emphasis on parks and gardens.

23. The portable soil moisture sensor system measures and displays information relating to moisture, salinity, temperature and GPS location; undertakes automated analysis and provides visual reporting to guide irrigation management via a digital app. Portable soil moisture sensors are currently being trialled in Council parks and gardens.

24. Council is responsible for over 2,100 parks, which are a critical community asset adding ecological, recreational and social value to a city. Parks are also important for balancing built space to achieve local climate control, air quality and open space outcomes. They are living assets which require water to thrive, and some parks have significant historical and cultural trees and gardens. Council act as custodians to these important living assets, with significant parks and gardens requiring continued watering if mandatory water restrictions are introduced.

25. The use of soil moisture sensors will ensure Council is using water efficiently and also assist Council in meeting any water restriction requirements. Council is committed to being a sustainable water user, demonstrating sustainable practice. Like any other water user, if SEQ moves into water restrictions in the future, Council will be required to meet voluntary and mandatory water restrictions, and, as such, it is important to be prepared.

26. Following a number of questions from the Committee, the Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the A/Manager for her informative presentation.

27. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

#### B PARK NAMING – FORMAL NAMING OF THE SPORTING NODE AT BOOKER PLACE PARK, 89 BIRKIN ROAD, BELLBOWRIE, AS ‘STEGEMAN SPORTING COMPLEX’

**161/540/567/220**

**530/2021-22**

28. The Manager, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

29. Councillor Greg Adermann, Councillor for Pullenvale Ward, wrote to West Region, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, requesting that the sporting node at Booker Place Park (D0663, B-RE-1671), 89 Birkin Road, Bellbowrie, be formally named as ‘Stegeman Sporting Complex’ after Mr Tony and Mrs Lorraine Stegeman, who have been pivotal in fostering a sense of community in the area since their children started playing soccer in 1978.

30. Booker Place Park is a high-profile park under *Brisbane City Plan 2014*, which has several lessees, one of them being the Bellbowrie Sports and Community Club (formerly known as Bellbowrie Sports and Recreation Club), who are affiliated with the Moggill Football Club, Moggill Cricket Club and the Bellbowrie Touch Football Club, who play at the grounds.

31. The Bellbowrie Sports and Community Club (the Club) was built in 1984 with many residents from the area, including Tony and Lorraine, donating funds to help with its construction.

32. The initial club building had no cooking facilities, so on Friday nights from 1984-1999, when sport was being played, Tony, Lorraine and other volunteers operated a makeshift sideline canteen. The famous ‘Steggars burger’ remains a staple on the Club’s menu today.

33. Their generosity extended to loaning the Club funds toward sealing the leased car park, and in 1998, they mortgaged their family home to finance a new kitchen and refurbishment of the Club’s bar area.

34. Tony was heavily involved in the administration of the Club and, apart from an absence from August 2006 to February 2009, was on the Club’s committee from 1987. He was the Club’s gaming nominee from 1997 to 2021, the liquor licensee when the Club was granted its licence in 1994 and was responsible for the associated compliance. He also undertook the Club’s bookkeeping responsibilities.

35. In the period of his absence, the Club suffered some dramatic financial losses and Tony was asked to return to oversee all operations including finance. With Tony’s dedication and countless hours of unpaid time, this debt was cleared in 2020, enabling the Club to become viable again. Without the support of a consistent and stable committee, and the committee laying their trust in Tony, this could not have been achieved.

36. Tony and Lorraine have been recognised with the following awards in acknowledgment of their contribution to the community.

- In 1989, Lorraine was awarded a Community Service award from the Club.

- In 1995, Tony was awarded a Bellbowrie Sports and Community Club Life Membership.

- In 2000, Tony was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia and an Australian Sporting Achievement award.

37. There has been strong community support for the sporting node naming to acknowledge Mr and Mrs Stegeman’s contributions to the Club and the community.

38. It has been requested that a history wording sign be included and erected in conjunction with a ‘node naming sign’ as outlined below.

*“Stegeman Sporting Complex*

*Since their humble beginnings in 1978 operating a makeshift sideline canteen, Tony Stegeman, alongside his wife Lorraine, have been pivotal to fostering a sense of community in Bellbowrie.*

*The Bellbowrie Sports and Recreation Club (BSCR) was completed in 1984, facilitated by the contributions of local residents, the Stegeman’s included. Countless voluntary hours across all aspects of the Club and immense personal sacrifice, including the mortgaging of their own family home in 1998, saw Tony recognised as a club honorary life member (1995), recipient of a Medal of The Order of Australia (2000) and acknowledged with an Australian Sporting Achievement award (2000).*

*The Stegeman’s selfless commitment to community has ensured the viability of the BSRC and presence of sporting opportunities for generations past and present (time of service 1978‑2021).”*

Funding

39. Funding for the name sign is available in the West Region, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, recurrent budget allocation for 2021-22.

Consultation

40. Councillor Greg Adermann, Councillor for Pullenvale Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation.

Customer Impact

41. Formally naming the sporting node at Booker Place Park as ‘Stegeman Sporting Complex’ will acknowledge Tony and Lorraine Stegeman’s selfless commitment to the viability of the Bellbowrie Sports and Recreation Club and the presence of sporting opportunities for generations past and present.

42. The Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

43. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT APPROVAL BE GRANTED TO FORMALLY NAME THE SPORTING NODE AT BOOKER PLACE PARK, 89 BIRKIN ROAD, BELLBOWRIE, AS ‘STEGEMAN SPORTING COMPLEX’, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL’S *OS03 NAMING PARKS, FACILITIES OR TRACKS PROCEDURE*.**

**ADOPTED**

#### C PETITION – REQUESTING THAT COUNCIL RENAME THE WETLAND AREA OF DONALDSON STREET PARK, NORMAN PARK, TO ‘KULPURUM SALTMARSH RESERVE’

**137/220/594/52**

**531/2021-22**

44. A petition requesting that Council rename the wetland area of Donaldson Street Park, Norman Park, to ‘Kulpurum Saltmarsh Reserve’, was presented to the meeting of Council held on 7 December 2021, by Councillor Kara Cook, and received.

45. The Executive Manager, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, provided the following information.

46. Currently Donaldson Street Park is not formally named. The name is taken from the longest street where the parkland is situated.

47. Council will consider renaming a section of Donaldson Street Park in accordance with Council’s *OS03 Naming Parks, Facilities and Tracks Procedure.* Additionally, the request for signage will also be considered during this time. Key stakeholders will need to be consulted during this process.

Consultation

48. Councillor Kara Cook, Councillor for Morningside Ward, has been consulted and supports the recommendation

Customer impact

49. The submission will respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

50. The Executive Manager recommended as follows and the Committee agreed.

51. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE, AS SET OUT IN ATTACHMENT A,** hereunder**, BE SENT TO THE HEAD PETITIONER.**

**Attachment A**

**Draft Response**

**Petition Reference:** 137/220/594/52

Thank you for your petition requesting that Council rename the wetland area of Donaldson Street Park, Norman Park, to ‘Kulpurum Saltmarsh Reserve’.

Council has completed an onsite investigation and considered your request.

Currently Donaldson Street Park is not formally named. The name is taken from the longest street where the parkland is situated.

Council has reviewed the policy and will consider renaming a section of Donaldson Street Park in accordance with Council’s *OS03 Naming Parks, Facilities and Tracks Procedure*. Additionally, the request for signage will also be considered during this time. Key stakeholders will need to be consulted during this process.

The above information will be forwarded to the other petitioners via email.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Brendon Whittaker, Regional Coordinator Parks, East Region, Program Planning and Integration, City Standards, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) 3407 1477.

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor DAVIS, 8 March report, please.

### ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Tracy DAVIS, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor James Mackay, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 8 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Deputy Chair. Last week, I provided a brief update to the community on the flooding event. Deputy Chair, areas throughout South East Queensland, including Brisbane, experienced an unexpected flooding event because of prolonged heavy rain received in the days prior. As we know, approximately 800 mm was experienced across the city in just four days. That was a significant amount of rain compared to the mean annual rainfall for Brisbane of just over one metre.

The intense rainfall was due to a very slow-moving low-pressure system which dragged moist air from the Coral Sea and, unfortunately, the east coast was already experiencing more rainfall than usual due to *La Niña* conditions. The 2022 event saw flooding across the city, including river flooding, creek flooding and overland flow.

The Brisbane River flood peak occurred on Monday 28th at 9.15am and the height was recorded at 3.85 metres. As a result of this rainfall and major flooding peaks in our river, we saw an impact on our creeks and waterways. Kedron Brook suffered with sections of the park, bikeway and footpath washed away as a result of the amount of water washing through that waterway.

While on the other hand, we’ve seen some of our recent works along our waterways recover well, such as Hanlon Park and Downfall Creek. Our recent works along Oxley Creek have shown that they are flood resilient, with minimal damage. However, we note that the focus will be on the waterway health and creek bank damage.

Brisbane Sustainability Agency (BSA) partnered up with local community groups and the Defence Force to undertake a targeted clean-up of the creek to prevent any more debris washing through the Brisbane River and into Moreton Bay.

Deputy Chair, since 2018, the Flood Resilience Home program has assisted 286 residential properties to receive a home service and 144 properties have had flood resilient works completed. We’ve been in contact with a number of residents that participated in the program, happily reporting that the works conducted in their home had held up against the flood.

We heard from a resident in Paddington, who was able to return to their home back to normal within days, with no damage to their home, which is exactly the outcome the program was designed to achieve.

I also provided a high-level overview of how our city parks fared during the event. Our field officers responded to events like this in three phases. Firstly, they make the area safe; secondly, they undertake a damage assessment on each site; and thirdly, they undertake any rectification works. Due to extensive damage across the city, you can appreciate that we are still within the first phase of making these public areas safe, focusing on cleaning up debris.

However, our NEWS (Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability) officers were able to provide some preliminary modelling based on the known river heights to estimate the possible impacts in our parks. As of last week, the modelling had indicated that approximately 910 out of our 2,185 parks could have been impacted by either creek or river flooding. This meant that approximately one in three parks were potentially affected.

The second phase of damage assessment will give a better understanding of the exact nature of damage across our parks and Councillor MARX’s officers have been out and about on the ground undertaking that assessment work because these details will help guide Council in prioritising the recovery works.

This includes revealing the type of infrastructure and which weathered this event better than others, and if they didn’t, there may be an opportunity during the rectification works, rather than just replace like for like, that Council explores a more resilient type of asset.

In regard to major parks, South Bank being adjacent to the river experienced significant damage. This included flooding to various buildings and assets and loss of power to the site. At the time of the report, sections of the parkland were still restricted due to these impacts. Victoria Park and Roma Street Parklands received no significant damage and both sites have services operating now, as per normal.

Both our City and Brisbane Botanic Gardens also did not suffer major damage, with only several pathways being restricted due to clean-up and water seepage. Sherwood Arboretum did though have some flood impacts.

There is still work to be done, Deputy Chair, but I’d like to thank all of our officers for their efforts to date on this very important early work.

I would just like to respond to a question that Councillor CASSIDY had last week regarding Ocean Crusaders. I understand that Brisbane Sustainability Agency worked together with both the Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA) and Ocean Crusaders to facilitate some community-based waterway corridor litter and debris clean-up events.

The first Oxley Creek waterways clean-up event was held on 24 November—rather, October 2021 at Oxley Creek Common and was delivered by BSA in partnership with Oxley Creek Catchment Association. OCCA also invited Ocean Crusaders to participate. Ocean Crusaders were valuable in supporting the removal of 343 kilograms of rubbish and debris from Oxley Creek at that event.

A similar event was scheduled to be held on 6 March to coincide with Clean Up Australia Day, however, as Ocean Crusaders have been focused on removing and diverting pontoons and other large floating debris from the Brisbane River during and post the recent flooding, they were unable to participate.

Brisbane Sustainability Agency is keen to continue to work with and support future Oxley Creek waterways clean-up events, which aligns with the vision for Oxley Creek and collaborating further with OCCA and Ocean Crusaders to do so.

I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor DAVIS

Any further speakers?

There being none, we’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Tracy Davis (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor James Mackay (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Jared Cassidy, Steve Griffiths, Sandy Landers and David McLachlan.

#### A CHAIR UPDATE ON EARLY RESPONSE TO THE 2022 BRISBANE FLOODING EVENT

**532/2021-22**

1. The Chair provided the Committee an update on early response to the 2022 Brisbane flooding event. She provided the information below.

2. Parts of South East Queensland (SEQ), including Brisbane, experienced an unexpected flooding event in the last week of February 2022 due to prolonged heavy rain. Approximately 800 millimetres of rain was experienced across the city over four days which is significant when compared to Brisbane’s mean annual rainfall of 1,011 millimetres.

3. The intense rainfall was due to a very slow moving low pressure system, drawing moist air from the Coral Sea and SEQ was already experiencing higher than usual rainfall due to *La Niña* conditions. The 2022 event saw flooding across the whole city including river flooding, creek flooding and overland flow.

4. The Brisbane River flood peak occurred at 9.15am on 28 February, with a recorded height of 3.85 metres, and, as a result, Brisbane’s creeks and waterways have been impacted. Kedron Brook has been heavily impacted with sections of the adjacent park, bikeway and footpath washed away as a result of the flooding.

5. Sites that have recently had Council works along the waterways, such as Hanlon Park and Downfall Creek, have recovered well. The recent works across Oxley Creek have shown it is flood resilient with minimal damage sustained, however, there will be a focus on waterway health and creek bank damage moving forward. The Brisbane Sustainability Agency has partnered with local community groups, and the Australian Defence Force are undertaking a targeted clean-up of Oxley Creek to prevent any more debris washing into the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay.

6. Since 2018, Council’s Flood Resilient Home program has facilitated more than 100 homes to become more flood resilient. Since the 2022 flooding event, homeowners that have participated in the program have been reporting that the works conducted in their home have held up against the floods. A participating resident from Paddington reported being able to return to their home within a few days with no damage.

7. In relation to how the city’s parks fared during the event, Council’s field officers will respond in three phases:

- ensure the area is safe

- carry out a damage assessment on each site

- undertake any rectification works as required.

8. Due to the extensive damage across the city, Council is still working in the first phase, ensuring public areas are safe, with a focus on cleaning up debris.

9. Officers from Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability, City Planning and Sustainability, have undertaken modelling based on known river heights to estimate the possible impacts to Council parks before all the on-ground assessments are completed. The modelling has shown that approximately 910 of Council’s 2,185 parks have been impacted by either creek or river flooding. The modelling also shows that approximately 49% of all dog off‑leash areas have been impacted and approximately 47% of sporting nodes have been impacted, which includes sports fields, courts, club houses, Council pools, gyms and fitness nodes.

10. While the modelling shows if there has been water inundation, the final determination of whether any infrastructure has been impacted is still being undertaken. To understand the full impacts of the flood event, Council will require officers to be out on the ground to ascertain what assets need work and which were only affected by overland flow.

11. The second stage of damage assessments will provide a better understanding of the exact nature of the damage. The details collected will help Council prioritise the recovery works and will include reviewing which types of infrastructure weathered the event better than others. This will help evaluate whether an opportunity exists to explore a more resilient asset type during the rectification works.

12. In relation to Brisbane’s major parks, South Bank experienced significant damage being adjacent to the Brisbane River. This included flooding to various buildings and assets, and loss of power onsite. Sections of parkland are still restricted due to these impacts. The three pools remain closed as, while they were not inundated with flood waters, they have been impacted by rain and stormwater and will require cleaning.

13. Victoria Park andRoma Street Parklands received no significant damage and both sites have services operating as per normal. Both the City Botanic Gardens and the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha did not suffer major damage with only several pathways being restricted due to clean-up and water seepage. Both of these sites have remained open to the public, with volunteer and public programs recommencing on 9 March 2022.

14. The Civic Cabinet Chair answered questions of the Committee.

15. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor MARX, City Standards, please.

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Kim MARX, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Standards Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MARX, you’ve got the call.

Councillor MARX: Yes, thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. We were planning on having a presentation from our Asphalt Aggregate Manager regarding a drum replacement. I’d been out at Riverview Asphalt Plant some couple of months previously, noticed this big, huge—big round piece of equipment on the ground—asked them what it was and they said it was a replacement drum for the asphalt plant and that it was going to be replaced when they next had a break in service.

I said to them I thought that would be a really good presentation along with a video if they took any video. They agreed, but unfortunately, technical issues meant that we couldn’t have the presentation so I’m hoping the Committee will be—indulge me and allow me to bring that again at another time. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Any further debate? No? We’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the City Standards Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors Kim Marx (Civic Cabinet Chair) and Steven Toomey (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Peter Cumming, and Nicole Johnston.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION - ASPHALT PRODUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND INNOVATION

**533/2021-22**

1. Due to the Manager, Asphalt and Aggregates, Brisbane Infrastructure, who was to provide an update on asphalt production, maintenance and innovation, being unable to attend due to technical difficulties, the presentation was unable to be held.

2. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor MARX, report of 8 March, please.

### CITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Kim MARX, Civic Cabinet Chair of the City Standards Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 8 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MARX.

Councillor MARX: Yes, thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. As is the case with all the other Committees, there was a fairly high-level overview of what City Standards had been doing with regard to the flood response, flood event and flood recovery. Something I’d said in the media a couple of times about this being a tale of two cities with a river flooding and creeks flooding, I dare say it’s actually a tale of three cities, because we have creek, river and no flooding.

So, we have a number of residents who have no idea what’s happened in other parts of the city and they’re going about their normal business, which is quite okay. I know—I went to a school ceremony with the student leaders and there were 1,000 primary kids there. I just asked them to imagine if they went home that night and took out all of their belongings from their whole house and put them on the footpath and that would give them some sort of empathy of what people in other parts of the city are going through.

I won’t go into any other detail. A lot has been said over this week, last week and no doubt in weeks to come. I just want to again take the opportunity to thank all those Council officers out on the ground for doing the job that they have been doing in sometimes strenuous and uncomfortable circumstances. Thank you.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MARX.

Is there further debate?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Deputy Chair. I rise to speak on this item and I pick up where I left earlier in the meeting in detail. The second part of this flood saga, after having previously talked about the experience over the weekend of the 25th, 26th, 27th of February, and now talk about what has happened since in terms of the flood clean-up and flood recovery.

On Monday, 28 February, the sheer scale—the devastation in my ward became evident. Almost 200 streets were affected across Bald Hills, Bracken Ridge, Deagon, Sandgate, Brighton, Boondall, Zillmere, Taigum and Geebung. On Monday morning, 28 February, I inspected the damage with Sterling Hinchcliffe, the State Member for Sandgate, and visited homes.

We started in Deagon, well, technically Sandgate, on Towner Street, and met people there whose houses had been inundated. Cathy Joyce, who had lived in her home with her late husband for decades was forced to flee. As sewerage washed through her home, she has now had to move to Beerwah with her daughter.

Amy and Brent Leonard had just finished a renovation of their home in Bridge Street, Deagon; it had been totally inundated. It will probably be demolished now.

We spoke to Ivy Halston, who’s lived on Station Road in Deagon for—since 1955. Before that, she lived in Shorncliffe since the early 1930s. She’d certainly never seen anything like that weekend before. Her place didn’t flood in 1974, 2011 or 2013 or 2015.

On Central Avenue, we saw residents who had been living there for decades, as well as some who had just been there a few years. They saw pontoons break free, boats washed away and entire homes get inundated, as well.

Andy and his son, Pablo, on Blackwood Road had just finished emptying their home when I saw them in the street. They were living in an Airbnb at the time. Diane, who had seen her family home inundated entirely and lost absolutely everything was still in shock.

Ken and Mary Maddocks from Dorloo Street, Deagon, were trapped on the second floor of their home while the first floor and their granny flat were completely underwater. Mary’s elderly father had been living in the granny flat and they don’t know now where he is going to live.

Kelly in Townsend Street, cried as I stood with her, looking at years’ worth of possessions and family memories sitting on the footpath. Priya in Dorloo Street said the only warning or updates she had received were the ones coming from Anika Wells and my Facebook pages over that weekend. The damage really set in for Priya’s blind father when he heard the water lapping at the top stairs of their second floor.

The uninsured, under-insured and people who rent have been hit particularly hard. Days after losing everything, some renting residents were homeless, and still are. The damage is widespread; in some areas, it’s easier to find homes that weren’t affected rather than ones that were. Streets like Barclay, Drouyn, Kift, Washington, Beatham, Prince, Princess, Townsend and Bayview Road, Aberdeen Parade, Waratah Court, Poplar Place, Gillies Street, just to name a few were hit very hard. This flood wasn’t contained to one or two suburbs in my ward; it touched all of them.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Deputy Chair.

Deputy Chair: I just ask the relevance. I have no issues with what Councillor CASSIDY is saying, but it’s a GB speech, not the City Standard sitrep that was given last Tuesday for Committee.

Councillor CASSIDY: It wasn’t a sitrep given last Tuesday at Committee.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: No, it wasn’t. Well—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: You can’t just sit there and commentate, Councillor ADAMS, really. Referring—

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Deputy Chair—

Deputy Chair: Hang on, can I just deal with one point of order, please.

Councillor CASSIDY—

Councillor CASSIDY: Just sitting there and talking—

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY—

Councillor CASSIDY: —that’s disrespectful.

Deputy Chair: Councillor CASSIDY, please.

*Councillor interjecting*.

Deputy Chair: Would you mind coming back to the report, please? I have given you some leniency, but please come back to the report.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Chair. Just referring to paragraph 3 in the Committee report of the recovery—

Deputy Chair: Just—

Councillor CASSIDY: —efforts.

Deputy Chair: Who called the other point of order, by the way.

Right, okay, sorry.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much. Just referring to paragraph 3, recovery efforts and paragraph 4, particularly, Council assisting residents with the clean-up and safe disposal of household and flood-related waste. That’s what I’m talking about. I’m talking about—it’s—in the report here it says, household flood-affected waste; well, what this is, is people’s lives. People’s lives that have been taken out of their homes and put on to the kerbside. I think their stories deserve to be heard, Chair.

I didn’t have an appreciation of how widespread that flood was until I went to the streets forming what locals call the Deagon dozen. At my own neighbourhood, I only made it back to my own house at 10.30pm the night before. Blackwood Road, Henderson Road, Finnie Road, Hickson, Phillips, Stockham and Hassall Roads, and over the other side of Braun Street in Nearra, Biarra, Burralong, Utalong and Dorloo Streets.

I knew it was high down on the creek, but to see water that was 1.5 metres high just three doors down from my own home showed how extraordinary this flood was.

I’ve seen some incredible shows of community support; on the Monday after the flood, we saw teams from St Patrick’s College and Brighton Roosters down at Deagon lending a hand, getting all of those flood-affected items out onto the kerbside. When someone would finish removing items from their own home, they would then move on to neighbours.

We put the call out and found an army of volunteers to help strangers in their time of need. Almost immediately, we saw cooked meals shared around neighbourhoods. For days, people ran on adrenaline, then the reality started sinking in; the task was too big for some people, and again we put together an army of volunteers and between local residents, St Patrick’s College and Nudgee College, we had well over 100 volunteers out on Saturday, 5 March. I saw a lot of smiles of gratitude and plenty of tears shed over generations of memories out on the kerbside waiting for Council to come and pick them up.

That support has continued and we’re now working with community organisations and police and emergency services on continued outreach and financial support. We’ve been there supporting our community; we’ve had visits from Albo and Annastacia and Major-General Ellwood to hear the stories and learn the lessons of this disaster, to know what went wrong and what needs to be fixed in the future.

While my expectations of the community I’ve lived in my whole life were well and truly exceeded, I have also never felt so distant and less part of Council than I did through this entire experience. I was one of the Councillors that did not receive the early sitreps from Council’s LDCC. I struggled to find out how information would be distributed and struggled to find relevant information early on.

I’ve already outlined earlier today the poor communication out of Council. There was absolutely no advice or warning for people who were experiencing flash flooding. There was no proper and prior planning for adequate sandbags and having them in more than one location on the northside of Brisbane.

I spoke with the LORD MAYOR on the night of Sunday, 27 February, about the need for people to have advice about evacuations. I then received a call from the Divisional Manager—from a Divisional Manager, asking if I knew someone who needed an evacuation. I made clear that there were dozens and dozens of people needing those evacuations and it became evident to me that Council’s position was that they needed to look after themselves and make those decisions alone. I was blown away.

I remain stunned at how hollow Council’s ability was to respond to the unfolding crisis and then the clean-up. Not only does Council under this LNP Administration, Deputy Chair, have enough—not have enough staff to close roads that are flooded, we don’t have enough equipment to do that. The lack of Council workers on the ground have left residents dangerously exposed in events like this.

The rollout of kerbside collection was so slow that no one in Council knew when it would even start and it became very clear to me early on in the piece, the LORD MAYOR was clueless about this, as well. We’ve just had the extraordinary situation of Council in the last two days asking local Councillors to nominate streets for a second pass of kerbside collection. The very definition of a second pass is to revisit the places that have already been collected.

So, these requests make me worry that Council has kept absolutely no records of which houses have received support to date. There are streets in Boondall, Zillmere and Geebung that haven’t even had a first pick-up yet, let alone ready for a second pass, over two weeks later.

Internal communication is abysmal; Councillors used to get regularly updated disaster response manuals. I don’t recall the last one I received; our old Motorola radios were replaced recently and we were told training would occur; that didn’t. I honestly don’t even know what they are for anymore.

On Saturday, 5 March, around 3pm, I received a call asking if I wanted a busload of Mud Army volunteers; this is after spending the day in isolation from Council, organising over 100 volunteers to help dozens and dozens of local residents who needed it. At no point throughout that week, leading up to that point, did we receive contact apart from the spreadsheet that the DEPUTY MAYOR sent from the Mud Army team.

To summarise, Chair—I’m wrapping up now; there aren’t enough Council staff to respond to disasters. There isn’t enough equipment in an event like this to close roads and produce sandbags. There was inadequate communication and no accessible evacuation centres for my community who were forced to flee from their homes.

Council is the lead agency for disaster coordination; the LORD MAYOR has failed. It is no wonder residents in my suburbs feel left behind by this LNP Administration. There will be a lot of questions that need answering in a review of this LNP Council’s response to this disaster.

Deputy Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor CUMMING.

Councillor CUMMING: Thank you. I’ll be fairly brief, Mr Chair—Mr Acting Chair. We were very lucky in Wynnum; we had very little flooding. The Wynnum Creek burst its banks at a couple of spots, but the water goes into parks and reserves and not into anyone’s houses.

There was a—some—a year or so ago, the Wynnum Manly Leagues Club did an upgrade and were asked by Council to provide a substantial upgrade of Wynnum Creek where it runs past their premises; they felt a bit aggrieved at having to pay for it because they thought they actually weren’t contributing to the load of stormwater much. That part of Wondall Road used to flood quite regularly and the water was threatening to run into shops across the road.

Well, after the upgrade, which the leagues club paid for, the—it flowed very well and there was no flooding, which is one of the—potentially, one of the worst areas in Wynnum Manly so that was great that the Council together with the leagues club had worked out a solution to that issue. So, well done.

My real problem is the sandbags and the lack thereof. We were told a load of about—of 1,000 sandbags would arrive each morning and each afternoon. A truck would be sent down from Bulimba, from Redfern Street, Morningside, the depot there—not Bulimba, Morningside, sorry, but it only happened once in the morning and then a couple of days later some more sandbags appeared, but locals told me there wasn’t anywhere near 1,000.

I got the Manager on the phone and he said, sorry, Peter, that’s the best we can do and you’ll have to send everyone up to Morningside depot. I think that’s not adequate and as Councillor CASSIDY has also called for, we need more sandbag machines and we need to ensure that there’s a greater range of places where we can pick up sandbags in these sorts of crises.

It’s not only the Wynnum Manly Ward I’m talking about, the wards of Chandler and Doboy look to Wynnum Manly as well, and suburbs such as the 40% of Manly West I don’t represent, Ransome, Gumdale, Wakerley, Hemmant and Tingalpa, they’d also benefit from having sandbags readily available at Lota. It’s a great location to pick up sandbags and, unfortunately, there were none there for most of the crisis time.

Finally, the kerbside collection, I’d just like to say, we were all set—the timing couldn’t have been any worse for Wynnum Manly for kerbside collection because it was all ready to go when the flood hit. I appreciate other areas are much worse off than Wynnum, and I—but what I’d like to see with the kerbside collection is to give us some sort of date, even how—even if it’s a bit vague; by the end of March, you’ll be picked up or by the middle of April or something like that. Give us something to work on.

People are very patient; some of the streets look an absolute mess and have for weeks, but—patience is a virtue, but eventually, people’s patience will run out, so if we could give some sort of generalised time that the collection will take place, it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Just one second—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Thank you, Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: —Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor STRUNK—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Can you hear me?

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Go—you’ve got the call, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Okay, thank you. I rise to speak about this report and I think there are a number of issues that impacted on my ward and I want to add them to the public record. I just want to start by saying that I believe our staff did the best job they can with very poor leadership from the Administration, from the LORD MAYOR and from the LNP.

I think that leadership has permeated down through the performance we’ve seen of Council and I think it continues to permeate down through the poor performance we see of this Council.

Overall, I thought the management of waste was appalling and I draw—it was interesting that Councillor MARX talked about it’s really about a tale of three cities with flooding. I agree with you, Councillor MARX; I think it is a tale about three cities flooding and I see it very politically. I see that the LNP part of the city got—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —looked after very well.

Deputy Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR. DEPUTY MAYOR, please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: The rest of us got looked after reasonably and Rocklea came last. The communication, I have to say, has been extremely poor; not just poor, but extremely poor. There’s been no effort to listen to local Councillors; there’s been no interest in listening to local Councillors and I think that’s been your demise. From my perspective, if you’re not going to listen to me, if you’re not interested in hearing me as a local Councillor then you can wear the media that’s going to come out of that.

It was interesting; the first thing that I noticed was we couldn’t even get the roads blocked or closed. There were no signs available and apparently all those staff were sandbagging, all the trucks were there sandbagging, that was Saturday morning. I rang flooding through on major roads in my ward, certainly, Beaudesert Road, Marshall Road, there were a number of roads and I just couldn’t get signage. That’s amazing that Council can’t provide signage to say that it’s too dangerous to cross a flooded road.

The second point that I make is that food waste—we had no waste collection, obviously, during the flood period and people were throwing their food waste out. Many of their fridges had gone, many—much of their food had gone, so they needed somewhere to put it. Their bins had floated away or were full of water, so the food waste went out on the road with all their other waste and the stench from that is pretty bad after it’s been in water, after it’s been hot—it was very humid. There was rotting food in the streets. The smell was really bad and I thought this was a basic requirement of Council to ensure health and safety of our citizens, of our residents, but also of our staff and we just weren’t doing that.

So, I noted for the rest of the city, the food waste bins arrived on Tuesday, for my ward, they arrived on Saturday. That was after numerous requests, numerous emails, numerous ringing people up; they arrived Saturday, and that was only after we did some media with the ABC, who couldn’t believe that there were no food waste bins in Rocklea. Residents backed that up with speaking on radio, as well.

So, perhaps the LORD MAYOR would like to explain and I know he isn’t there again, he’s at—I think he’s out at Rocklea at the moment. He—why there were no food waste bins and why it took the LNP Administration so long—took them almost a week to get food waste bins to the people of Rocklea, and why they didn’t bother communicating with me about that?

Anyway, second point I’d like to make is on the Monday, it became evident that there were some homes down there with asbestos, where people were putting out—it was wet asbestos, but it was still asbestos. Wrote to the LDCC; what do you want done, what’s the messaging in relation to asbestos? Never heard back, a CARS (Compliance and Regulatory Services) officer will get back to you; never heard back.

Surely—we went through this in 2011, surely, we were prepared for people dumping asbestos when they were cleaning their houses out. There was no communication prepared, there was nothing ready. I sort of wonder—anyway, it just amazes me. Anyway, eventually I found from a Council officer, who was able to say, it has to be tied up and put in pieces of plastic and wrapped separately and put on the footpath.

You know what? It was too late and it was too late because we didn’t perform, because we didn’t get that message out there; because we were hopeless, the leadership was hopeless.

Then the doozy—the doozy for me was no—while there was no communication with me and maybe the LNP thought it’s smart and listening to the LORD MAYOR tonight actually say he doesn’t want to communicate with me, that’s pretty incredible. He doesn’t want to communicate with one of the elected members of the city, I wonder—we got a dump—the LNP set up a dump in Acacia Ridge next to residents’ homes, on a football field, where a memorial is where a young man died, and they put—there were virtually hundreds of loads of rubbish there.

It was building up for days. That’s where they were dumping the rubbish, and I’ve been told it was for two or three days. It wasn’t two or three days, it was for the week. I have so many complaints about that rubbish being dumped for the week and it was dumped—and there were piles of this rubbish and it had everything in it. It had food waste, it had nappies, it had old furniture, it had toilets; it had everything you could imagine.

I wrote to the LORD MAYOR and the CEO and the LDCC and said, what’s this about this waste here? Why are you putting waste right next to residents’ homes in a park? The response I got back from these people that are so-called leading was, it’s going to stay until 3 April; got that in writing, black and white; you know, get over it, it’s going to stay there.

It wasn’t until then, I thought, damn it, I can’t get anything out of these—anyway, I won’t say it. So let’s go to the media, let’s take it to the media. That’s the only way this Council listens. That’s the only way this Mayor and these LNP Councillors listen. Let’s go to the media, and it was picked up nationally, and it was picked up all over the State and the shame of it was it just showed what an appalling, appalling, way we’ve handled these floods for our residents.

So we took the flood waste away from one group of residents and we dumped it on another who didn’t have problem, and none of you had the gall to ring me. Not the LORD MAYOR, not the DEPUTY MAYOR, none of you. So you wear what you don’t ask. If you think that it’s smart not to consult with the local Councillor, even an Opposition Councillor, then you wear the results of your actions and I’m glad you did because it is appalling what you did to those residents.

It’s appalling those people couldn’t be in their homes because of the stench. There is nothing about good governance in the way you handled this flood recovery. Nothing. You know, it just reinforces to me the out of touchness that’s going on in this echo chamber that you’re in. Anyway, I’m really disgusted by what this Council delivered. It was appalling. People should be ashamed of what they delivered and it really shows to me that this Administration has no interest and has no passion for our city.

I hope people remember this when it comes time for the next election because they’ve got a bunch of duds running the city at the moment.

Deputy Chair: Have you finished, Councillor GRIFFITHS?

Further speakers?

Councillor MATIC.

Councillor MATIC: Thanks, Mr Chair—or Mr Deputy Chair.

Where do you start? You know—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Hang on, just one minute—one second, Councillor MATIC.

Councillors on my left, we just heard one of your fellow colleagues in silence. I think you can offer the same courtesy.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: You can offer the same courtesy. Don’t give me the innocent look, please. Offer these Councillors the same courtesy. Thank you.

Councillor MATIC.

Councillor MATIC: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I’m sorry if I’m disturbing Councillor CASSIDY reading his book.

Mr Deputy Chair, I’ve just—well, we’re sitting here, what is it, 8 o’clock. We’ve had a city that has been more dramatically affected in 2011. We’ve had a Council and continue to have a Council fully committed to the recovery of this city. Officers pulled from different branches to do other jobs just to make sure that we’ve got the person power out there to help us in our roles.

My ward was one of the worst affected in regards to this overall flood. There are many Councillors here with severe flooding in their wards. Many of us on this side of the Chamber would prefer nothing more to actually be in our wards right now, supporting our local community and listening to their needs and meeting their needs. Instead we have to sit here and listen to the absolute garbage, to the diatribe and to the foul language of those opposite.

I have never been more disgraced or embarrassed to be in this Chamber with the Opposition than I am now. Their mistruths, their creation of fact, their exaggerations are absolutely appalling and I hope that you’re still listening over there, Councillor GRIFFITHS; and Councillor CASSIDY, I’m sorry, if you’re going to get another book to read, that’s fine by me.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MATIC, through the Chair, please.

Councillor MATIC: Yes, Mr Deputy Chairman.

We had throughout this city a cascading effect of weather intensification from Saturday onwards, all of us were affected in different ways. All of us were dealing with it as quickly as we could. The LORD MAYOR with the information that he was receiving from the BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) and State Government and the LDCC and everybody else, all of us Councillors trying to gather as much information as we could to get out to our communities and support them.

We had to deal with those as quickly as we could and the impact was significant and in some areas very fast. We had officers out there doing the best they could with the incredible number of streets that were locally flooded and in some instances, not even being able to get to those streets to put up signage. Then on top of that, we had to deal with helping out our residents, sandbagging wherever he could, with me down at Rosalie Village and peoples’ houses and there are Councillors here that will tell all their stories of helping people to sandbag, of community, of residents getting in their trucks and vehicles and whatever they could get to get to the sandbagging stations with officers committing themselves—absolutely just flogging themselves, if I can say that, Mr Deputy Chairman, to get those sandbags filled and to help residents out.

Then after we had those events on Saturday and Sunday, and rolling on to Monday, we had officers continuing to do the work 24/7. We had LDCC breaking its back, we had our—had E&C working in all its particular roles around the clock, all of us working together, trying to get the information to the LDCC so that we could work in a coordinated fashion to get those results out there. Emails being sent to us, sitreps being sent to us, us constantly feeding that back.

Mr Deputy Chairman, we had an extraordinary situation. We had the worst rain event that this city has ever seen and when you listen to those opposite, you’d think it was just another day. You thought that it might just be a light shower and that somehow Council failed in its duty to deal with what was the most extraordinary rain event we’ve ever had. Mr Chairman, I have to sit here as a local Councillor and listen to that garbage.

We should’ve finished this meeting hours ago. We have a motion before us still to listen to that Councillor GRIFFITHS chose to raise it, like 2pm or 3pm this afternoon. We’re actually going to waste our time here replicating the same motion that we heard before. I am not in my ward right now, neither are these Councillors in their wards right now helping their local residents because we have to listen to the politics of those opposite.

How dare they stand here, sit here, in this place and politicise the impact that this has had on all of our communities. How dare they sit here and chastise this organisation, these Council officers, this Administration, everyone that has put their shoulder to the bone because we didn’t do exactly what they needed, when they wanted it, on their side of the Chamber. We have to listen to that garbage here. I am absolutely ashamed to be in this place with these people. They are an absolute disgrace.

I hope that the media of this comes out. I hope that your community see you for what you are. You are wasting our time in this Chamber, listening to your garbage and your diatribe and your platform, for your next re-election when we should be out there helping our communities right now. I have to give full credit to this Administration, this LORD MAYOR, this E&C, for what they’ve done under incredibly difficult circumstances to help this city forwards.

The most help we’ve had, Mr Deputy Chairman, in this whole event is from the Federal Government bringing the ADF to help us clean these streets. What have we seen from this State Government? Nothing. What I do see is picture opportunities from State Labor Members going out to particular situations, dressed in their R.M. Williams boots and their clean shirts and pants, and getting in there and taking a photo op and then going back and blaming Councillors on this side of the Chamber for not doing their job.

Mr Deputy Chairman, these people are a disgrace. I stand here and I will repeat that to them and I know that Councillor CASSIDY is listening back there and you keep listening, mate, because you’re a disgrace to your community. Standing here and telling me about the hardships of your community as if it was distinct from anybody else’s. My heart goes out to every resident in this city that was affected by this flood.

There are people out there without insurance. There are people out there that cannot rebuild their homes. There are people out there that have lost everything and we sit here and listen to their garbage when we should be out there helping them. We need to come together in this Chamber as Councillors, together for the first time in the history of this Council in this Chamber for what is the most tragic event that has occurred in the history of this city.

We don’t need to stand here and point fingers at each other. I don’t want to hear any more garbage from you about what you should’ve got or what you didn’t get over on your side. You need to come to the table and we need to work together because this city needs all of us together. We need to help our residents get their lives back together as quickly as possible. We don’t need to sit in this Chamber and waste our time talking about motions, what about things that we should be working together on.

So, Mr Deputy Chairman, when we speak about this matter here, how about we get some decency? How about we get some honesty? How about we get some collaboration from each other for the first time ever so that we can get out there, not waste time in this Chamber, but get out there and support our residents, because I’m telling you right now, I’ve got a heap of people in my ward that have gone through stuff just as hard as your people have.

I’ve got people out there have lost everything. You come down to Milton with me and look at those businesses down there. They don’t exist. They can’t afford the insurance premiums. They’ve lost everything and I’m sitting here listening to you. Are you serious? Mr Deputy Chairman, we need to get real. Those Councillors opposite need to get real and we need to start working together and stop picking at each other.

Pull yourself together and start working, starting going to the LORD MAYOR, going to the Chairs, going to the LDCC, because we’ve got months of this. This isn’t days, this clean-up is just stage one. For anyone that was in this place in 2011, you know what I’m talking about. We have a journey to bring a city back together again, infrastructure to rebuild, people’s lives to support, the emotional impact that it’s having on them, the financial impact that it’s having on them, they just want their lives back. They just want the opportunity to be like the rest of the city that wasn’t affected.

We can only do that if we stop this garbage and start working together. Mr Deputy Chairman, I’m putting the word out there. I’m hoping that some of this works its way through to the other side of the Chamber. I really do. I doubt it will, because they can’t miss the opportunity for the perfect outcome to this whole disaster that’s occurred.

Mr Deputy Chairman, now is the time. Now is the time to actually act like an adult, act like a responsible Councillor, put forward your grievances, put forward your grievances because they’re all legitimate, but let’s work together. Let’s not exaggerate the stuff that isn’t supposed to be because there’s a heap of stuff out there that we all need to work together on and we will get there as long as we work together on this and making sure that we support each other, that we get through this the way we should do, as opposed to those opposite, and good old Councillor GRIFFITHS over there who’s on the phone having a nice chat with GRIFFITHS or whoever he is, because this is what this Chamber is about.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MATIC: You see, this is what this meeting is about, Mr Deputy Chairman, and I hope these cameras are showing that. He’s on the phone over there having a chat with someone because he doesn’t care what we say over here. It’s all about him, it’s all about his conversation, it’s all about the representations that he chooses to make and the ones that he doesn’t choose to make.

So, Mr Deputy Chairman, at the end of the day, if I have to sit here and listen to this, well, I guess I have to, but I know that this organisation, this Administration, has done its absolute best, under incredibly difficult circumstances, with the resources that we have and we’re going to continue to be out there and we’re going to continue to do the work. We’ll leave the politics to them and the doing to us.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MATIC, your time has expired.

Councillor MATIC, I understand your passion, but can we have some silence, please?

Councillor STRUNK

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Deputy Chair.

I rise to speak on a couple of items in this particular report.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor MATIC.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor MATIC.

Councillor CASSIDY: Point of order.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor MATIC.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MATIC: Mr Deputy Chairman, I’ll beat him to the punch. I’ll withdraw my statement and apologise to the Chamber for my comment.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY: And the statement—the statement was cheapskate scumbag. That’s what this Councillor just shouted out across our Chamber.

Councillor MATIC: And I withdraw my statement and I apologise to Councillor CASSIDY and to this Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Councillors to my right.

Councillor CASSIDY: What’s going on up there?

Deputy Chair: Hang on one second, Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillors to my right—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor MATIC, you’ve withdrawn your statement.

Councillor MATIC: Mr Deputy Chairman, I wholeheartedly withdraw the statement and I genuinely apologise to Councillor CASSIDY for the comment.

Deputy Chair: Thank you very much.

Councillor CASSIDY, did you have a point of order? No? Okay. Thank you.

Councillor STRUNK, you’ve got the call.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you, Deputy Chair.

I rise to speak on a couple of items in this particular report. I suppose the first one that really—and it was listed a previous report as well and that was potholes. You know, those things that we all try to dodge and sometimes we don’t. Last Sunday, no, Sunday before last I lost a tyre in one of the potholes in what I call Pothole Alley which is Boundary Road between Rudd Street and Kimberley Road at Richlands.

The reason I call it Pothole Alley is because there’s been, well before the floods, there has been a series of substantial potholes right along and we’ve made multiple calls on these. Even the former councillor for 16 years, Les Bryant, made it his passion to ring me every time he went over one of them. So consequently when the rain bomb hit my ward, it was—the potholes just increased exponentially and they still haven’t been fixed yet.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor HAMMOND.

Councillor STRUNK: And I know that we’ve been madly going around Brisbane filling as many potholes but it’s that maintenance—

Deputy Chair: Just one moment, just one moment, Councillor STRUNK.

We’re in this Chamber to debate, not have a game of charades across the floor.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: No, Councillor HAMMOND. We’re not playing charades, we’re to debate, we’re here to represent the people of Brisbane, we’re here to be adults.

Councillor STRUNK, you’ve got the call.

Councillor STRUNK: Thank you.

So it’s that maintenance, that ongoing maintenance, that we’ve been striving for for suburbs to get that—we see a lot of money being spent in the inner city area that we’re not really getting basic items like filling in potholes, all right? So I just—Councillor MARX, if you can just take that on board between—former councillor Les Bryant would love them to be filled in. I lost a tyre on Sunday, or Sunday before last. Council had to pay for that, of course, because it’s a Council car, but, you know, from—on Boundary Road between Rudd and Kimberley Street, if you can try to prioritise that it would be very much appreciated.

So the next thing I want to talk about a little bit is the creek flooding that was happening in my ward and when I say flooding, that’s not really fair because it didn’t really flood much. What happened was some few year ago, Council officer Chris Dailey was given the task to make sure that the floods—sorry, the creeks in my ward, especially in the Forest Lake area, especially those inflows into the lake, to be kept as clean as possible, right, to maintain that flow into the lake without too much stuff coming into the lake as well, into those traps but he also did a lot of work on those creek areas around the ward.

Now, we’re very lucky to have Chris because he grew up in Inala and this was his—Forest Lake was his playground as growing up as a kid, well before development ever happened. Of course, he knows Doolandella, Inala and Durack. So they’ve done a really terrific job—Asset Services have done a terrific job and honestly we had no flooding out of those creeks and I went around, like every other Councillor would have done here, go around in the pouring rain just to have a look what’s happening in our wards.

I was just amazed how well they operated, right, so I just wanted to pay credit to Chris Dailey and Tom McHugh that, of course, is his manager as well. The other thing too is the ADF did a terrific job. I know—you know, they didn’t have huge numbers, right, but what they did in those areas they targeted they did a terrific job. But of course a lot of our community groups and organisations did a lot of good work there in some of that work as well. I just wanted to acknowledge a couple of those as well and I know it’s not part of the report here but I just want to acknowledge those as well.

Our Uniting Church, Reverend Russell, unbelievable work he did with all sorts of issues that he was dealing with, whether it be homeless because a lot of people are homeless, of course, as we know, and just food stuffs and clothing and things like that. Also want to acknowledge the fundraising that’s been happening and I’m sure it’s been happening in other places as well with our Vietnamese community that raised over $27,000 within a week or so for both the Afghan refugees as well as the flood victims as well. They’ve got a Ukraine one coming up shortly as well. So they’re terrific. They’ve really helped out as well and of course our national seniors who donated a lot of stuff as well to the cause as well.

So I’ll just finish my comments there, Deputy Chair and thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Are there any further speakers? No.

Councillor MARX, right of reply.

Councillor MARX: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

Not quite sure what to say to all of that. I’m guessing potentially a lot of that was General Business so if that’s okay, I’m happy to hear General Business in my report.

I just have one thing to say. I just want to apologise to the Council officers, the ones who’ve been out there working day and night under extremely difficult circumstances and if they’re feeling that their work was not good enough or underappreciated, I apologise to you all. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor MARX.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor CUMMING.

We will now put the report of the City Standards—sorry, my apologies. I’m just still coming to terms with what’s happened in this place—on the—for 8 March.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the City Standards Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Kim Marx (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Toomey (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Greg Adermann, Peter Cumming, Sarah Hutton and Nicole Johnston.

#### A CHAIR UPDATE ON EARLY RESPONSE TO THE 2022 BRISBANE FLOODING EVENT

**534/2021-22**

1. The Civic Cabinet Chair provided the Committee with an update on the early response to the 2022 Brisbane flooding event. She provided the information below.

2. The Civic Cabinet Chair expressed appreciation to Council staff who have contributed to working on the recovery.

3. Recovery efforts include inspection and assessment of critical infrastructure including ferry terminals, bikeways, roads, drainage systems, parks, and trees.

4. Council is prioritising support for Brisbane residents to clean up, and safely dispose of household flood‑related waste. Council officers, together with members of the Australian Defence Force, will continue the clean-up efforts over the coming weeks.

5. Standard bin collections remain in place across Council, although some properties may have experienced delayed collection due to road closures or flooding. Residents in flood‑affected streets and suburbs should ensure that bins are placed in an accessible location for access by Council’s waste collection vehicles. Council’s four Resource Recovery Centres, located at Chandler, Ferny Grove, Nudgee, and Willawong are operational and free for flood-affected residential and commercial waste.

6. Council’s Rapid Response crews continue to work around the clock and have so far filled and repaired over 6,500 potholes across Brisbane’s road network.

7. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Thank you very much.

Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

### COMMUNITY, ARTS AND NIGHTTIME ECONOMY COMMITTEE

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

We had a Committee presentation on job tracking status and notification and it was a very interesting presentation and I really want to thank Shane Hackett for the wonderful way in which he delivered the information about something new and exciting that should be coming our way hopefully by June 2022. The Committee was shown how some of the tracking is going to be able to improve the way that we can provide customer satisfaction and can I take this opportunity to thank Shane and his fantastic team at the contact centre.

As you know, this presentation was made on 1 March and it was a very strange time of things happening and I know that not only Shane but all of his team in the contact centre were doing the most magnificent job and I just want to say from the bottom of my heart and I hope that they haven’t been offended by anything that has been said in this Chamber this evening because I know that they have done the most amazing job and on that note I’ll leave it to debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Any further speakers? No one rising.

We’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sandy Landers (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Peter Cumming, Steve Griffiths, James Mackay and Steven Toomey.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – JOB TRACKING STATUS AND NOTIFICATION

**535/2021-22**

1. The Manager, Customer Services, Lifestyle and Community Services, attended the meeting to provide an update on job tracking status and notification . He provided the information below.

2. Council’s Contact Centre is an award-winning 24/7 contact centre, which can assist Council customers with over 4,200 enquiry topics. It handles approximately 1.2 million customer contacts per year across all channels, including requests for information, advice, service, and payment. Customer contact channels include phone, mail, social media, SMS/MMS/app, face‑to-face and via online forms. The Contact Centre aims to deliver outstanding customer experiences by making it easy for customers to contact Council, responding in a timely way by setting expectations up-front and keeping customers informed of progress, and understanding customers’ needs to deliver quality outcomes.

3. Approximately one in every nine customers follow up on their service request. This represents additional time and effort for the Contact Centre and work units. The non-financial cost continues to reduce customer satisfaction with every repeat contact. Customer Services has introduced job status tracking and notification (the project) to reduce the volume of customer follow ups and duplicate requests, and to increase customer satisfaction by improving customer experience.

4. A number of developments and innovations have enabled the project to be introduced. Online forms and the customer portal enables customers to create, personalise and manage a registered account where they can view interaction history, including request status. Customers can easily access self-service through signing in with their email account or through utilising external identity providers, such as Facebook and Google, enabling customers to complete transactions with less effort. Spatial mapping allows customers to view on a map, and link to, issues already reported to Council.

5. Integration tools have been implemented to improve the accuracy, range, and methods for the provision of end-to-end status tracking. An outcome has been to develop a repeatable and scalable approach to reduce and inform cost and timeframes for implementing status tracking for other services. Community experience initiatives have improved the flow of information between City Standards, the Contact Centre and external customers. End-to-end business processes have been reviewed to support better customer outcomes and the provision of meaningful and accurate status updates.

6. The Committee was shown an example of the customer journey for a tree maintenance request. There are four key customer engagement zones for request handling: reporting, assessing the request, conducting the work, and closing the job. Customer engagement needs differ by zone. In the reporting zone, engagement is focussed around providing information about the problem to Council. Customers are focussed on getting the job done and value a streamlined search process and easy-to-follow guidelines. When assessing the request, engagement with customers is important to provide clarity regarding what is planned, and to hear any concerns. In the conducting the work zone, customers want to know when the work is going to be done, and they are looking for reassurance the work is going to be completed to their expectations. When jobs are closed, customers want to be assured Council will manage the problem in an ongoing way. The project is an opportunity to make customer experience improvements in these ‘engagement zones’ through setting expectations upfront and keeping customers informed of progress.

7. The objective of the project is to reduce the volume of customer follow ups and duplicate requests, and to increase customer satisfaction by improving customer experience. Outputs of the project include customers being able to view their request status and request history with Council, to provide a map view of open requests, and to provide simple and timely status and notification messages. The scope of job types incorporated in the project at this point includes footpath maintenance, repair, obstruction and cleansing, and tree maintenance and removal.

8. The project will be delivered by June 2022 in collaboration with Information Services, Customer Services and vendor resources. For customers, this means they will be able to:

- view requests already reported to Council, view and link to open issues already reported to Council on a map

- report new issues using a pin-drop on a map or via an address

- opt-in or opt-out of receiving notifications or creating an account

- receive status updates via SMS or email and

- view the status and history of requests.

Benefits for Council include providing more meaningful request status and history, a reduction in call volumes and follow ups, a reduction in duplicate cases, engagement with happier customers, a reduction in inspection requirements, and a reduction in the volume of customer correspondence.

9. The Committee was shown a table outlining the job status trigger points and the corresponding notifications customers will receive. When a customer submits a request, they will receive confirmation of the successful submission, including a reference number and the estimated date of completion if they have opted-in for notifications. When the request is assessed, they will receive a notification it has been assessed or inspected. If a job does not progress, for example if no work is needed, the customer will be notified of this. The customer will receive a notification when a request is scheduled, including an estimated completion date if this is later than the original estimated completion date. Once a request is completed, the customer will also be sent a notification.

10. The Committee was shown a chart of the project’s timelines, project phases and the tasks undertaken by various project contributors.

11. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Manager for his informative update.

12. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD, next report, please.

Councillor HOWARD: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

### COMMUNITY, ARTS AND NIGHTTIME ECONOMY COMMITTEE

Councillor Vicki HOWARD, Civic Cabinet Chair of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sandy LANDERS, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 8 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HOWARD.

Councillor HOWARD: Well, thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

Mr Deputy Chair, I could spend 10 minutes talking about the magnificent work that has been done by the Lifestyle and Community Services. But I don’t think I have to because I think that each and every person in this Chamber, and not only the people in this Chamber but every resident of Brisbane knows just how hard every Council officer has worked to bring this city back.

I think that some of the debate here tonight has just been appalling. I think it’s the only word that I can use. So I want to take my time to address Tash Tobias who is the Divisional Manager of Lifestyle and Community Services and I want to say to Tash that I want her to tell each and every officer that she represents how much I as the Chair of this wonderful Committee appreciate what they have all done.

I want to say to her that at least the people on this side of the Chamber totally, totally, understand the hours and hours and hours and hours of work that has been put in to this city and talk about dedicated to a better Brisbane. I don’t think that can be said anything better than the efforts and the work that each and every Council officer, not just in our Lifestyle and Community Services but I know how much those people help.

I know that at the evacuation centres, I know the contact centres, I know that they were just—they were there with the mud army. We really need to understand that this is a team effort. Everything that Councillor MATIC said before is just so important. We all have to get behind this recovery, every one of us and I think that if I can say nothing more than tonight but through you, Tash, can you please pass on our sincere thanks to each and every Council officer that truly is dedicated to a better Brisbane.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor HOWARD.

Is there any further debate? I see no one rising.

We’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the report of the Community, Arts and Nighttime Economy Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Vicki Howard (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Sandy Landers (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Peter Cumming, Steve Griffiths, James Mackay and Steven Toomey.

#### A CHAIR UPDATE ON EARLY RESPONSE TO THE 2022 BRISBANE FLOODING EVENT

**536/2021-22**

1. The Civic Cabinet Chair provided the Committee an update on early response to the 2022 Brisbane flooding event. She provided the information below.

2. Council’s Contact Centre is operating as usual and was requested to pro-actively call 1,087 customers that contacted Council requesting assistance, to check-in with these customers. Customers have been very appreciative of the check-in from Council; most of them have requested kerbside collection of damaged items and assistance to clean out mud from within private properties.

3. Most of Council’s libraries remained open as per their normal operating hours, however, the Mobile Library and Pop-up Library suspended operations until 4 March, as locations were unsafe to access. The Mobile Library was re-deployed to the Sleeman Evacuation Centre from 2March, offering services from 9am to 5pm each day, and will remain in place until the centre closes. Power and services have been restored to City Archives, with the centre reopening on 4 March. All library programs and events were cancelled, however, have resumed on 5 March. Apart from the Mobile Library and Pop-up Library, all library services returned to normal from 7 March. Some libraries had increased customer numbers needing to access the internet, a computer and power. The lifts at Wynnum Library are still out of service. Overdue loans have been extended and lost and replacement fees are being waived.

4. Council operates 12 cemeteries across Brisbane, and they returned to normal operations on 8 March. South Brisbane Cemetery was flood-affected, and some of the memorial cemeteries have been water‑damaged.

5. Jindalee and Bellbowrie Pools are closed until further notice. While the outdoor pools at Newmarket are closed, the indoor pools are open. The Acacia Ridge Leisure Centre, Langlands Park Memorial Pool and Manly Pool have reported minor maintenance issues, but these have now returned to full occupational capacity.

6. Community Facilities worked quickly to survey Council’s community facility leaseholders and community groups. Council is encouraging not for profit groups to complete the Flood impact survey to assist them to claim the $5,000 Community Facility Disaster Relief Payment (the payment). Completing the survey also helps Council plan for works required for community facilities and sites for the future. As of 7 March, 128 clubs have been contacted by Community Facilities Operations Team, and 224 clubs have responded to a survey. Of these, 29% do not have flood insurance, 19% reported severe impacts to their facility, 28% reported moderate impacts and 36% reported minor impacts. At present, 16% are fully operational and 39% are partially operational. Council’s Sport and Recreation Officers are currently engaging with clubs to assist them to receive the payment to assist with the clean-up of their premises. There has been damage to some community facilities including the artificial turf playing field at Mitchelton Football Club, and carpark damage at Sandgate Hawks Sporting Club.

7. Council is working with State sporting organisations and peak bodies to assist with immediate and long‑term issues. Council is also working with the Queensland State Government to repair sporting fields, particularly for junior sport, returning the fields to a playable condition as quickly as possible. City Standards is providing an initial safety inspection of facilities once floodwaters recede, and Council will complete a building condition assessment for all facilities impacted by floodwater to understand the extent of the damage and to prepare a scope of works for repairs.

8. A number of creative and cultural programs were cancelled last week, including the Lord Mayor’s City Hall Concerts, which have now resumed. The Bands in the Park program has been impacted due to damage to equipment.

9. The Civic Cabinet Chair answered a question of the Committee.

10. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Steven HUANG, A/Civic Cabinet Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah HUTTON, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 1 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

The Finance Committee had a presentation from our Human Resources branch on the various employment programs undertaken by Council. There are eight different employment programs being delivered this financial year, providing pathways for people entering the workforce and who support the participation of groups facing disadvantage.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the officers in the Human Resources branch and across Council for their work in delivering these programs. I’ll leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Is there any further debate? No, no one rising.

I’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the Finance and City Governance Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Fiona Cunningham (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Huang (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Angela Owen, Jonathan Sri and Charles Strunk.

#### A COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS 2021-22

**537/2021-22**

1. The Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Resources, Organisational Services, attended the meeting to provide an update on employment programs in 2021-22. She provided the information below.

2. Employment programs delivered by Council in 2021-22 include apprenticeship pathways, graduate pathways, the Emerging Capabilities Program, cadetship pathways (including Indigenous cadetships), pre-trade work experience, tertiary work experience pathways, traineeship pathways and disability ACTION at WORK (DAaW).

3. In 2021-22, Human Resources, Organisational Services, collaborated with Council divisions and the Economic Recovery Taskforce project control group to identify priority projects that directly support the city’s economic recovery. Program participants were prioritised to business areas that deliver these priority projects, in order to provide extra support to achieve the economic recovery outcomes for the city.

4. Apprenticeship pathways is a program for people interested in gaining a trade qualification. This program is coordinated corporately and is delivered in partnership with Council’s divisions. Council employs apprentices temporarily for the length of their apprenticeship. Council’s average trade occupation completion rate is more than 81%, with the national average being 56.1%. Council currently has 91 apprentices across 12 trades and has experienced an increase of 3% in 2020-21, to 14% in 2021-22 in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander apprentices successfully obtaining trade apprenticeships. Council has been working with apprentices and work areas to better align training with future industry trends in automotive electric vehicle technology. This pathway has close alignment with the talent pipeline through pre-trade work experience placements. Fourteen participants gained apprenticeships through this pathway.

5. Graduate pathways enable recent university graduates to complete two six-month rotations as part of a 12-month temporary placement. They have supported a range of economic recovery themes including buy local support, red tape reduction, building and construction, and community groups. Graduates from 2021-22 will be acknowledged at a graduation ceremony in April 2022. Council’s graduate pathways program was placed 22nd in the Australian Association of Graduate Employers’ Top 75 list, up from 50th place last year. New graduates were successfully onboarded into their new teams, and existing graduates successfully transitioned to new rotations while working from home. Graduates work in a range of disciplines including events and tourism, civil engineering, economics, communications, urban planning, law and policy, electrical engineering, international relations and contract management.

6. The Emerging Capabilities Program enables Council to attract employees with in-demand skills, meet emerging workforce needs and fill skills gaps identified through workforce planning. In 2021-22, participants in this program will be supporting City Projects Office, Brisbane Infrastructure, to deliver the design and construction phases of road upgrade projects in the Better Roads for Brisbane portfolio. The duration of these placements is 12 months with participants gaining skills in the areas of project management and digital communications.

7. The cadet pathways program is a pathway for penultimate and final-year tertiary students, giving them the opportunity to work for Council for two days per week in a temporary position for up to 12 months. Cadets successfully transitioned to new rotations while working from home. In 2021-22, two new Indigenous cadet positions were included, supporting diversity and creating a pathway for Indigenous cadets to transition into Council’s graduate positions. Participants will gain skills in the areas of civil engineering, data analysis, information technology, environmental science, mechanical engineering, international relations, urban planning and electrical engineering.

8. The pre-trade work experience program supports students completing a pre-vocational training course with a registered training organisation (RTO). It is suitable for high school students seeking opportunities to ‘try a trade’ and helps Council identify potential candidates for the apprenticeship program. Council business areas experiencing success with the pre-trade work experience program led the recruitment strategy to fill apprentice positions. This program undertook targeted engagement with schools, RTOs, and trade programs, and has resulted in a 100% rise in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation. Former program participants who attained apprenticeships with Council were nominated for, and won, seven awards at the 2021 Apprentice of the Year Awards. This program has had 68 participants to date, working up to 10 days each in trade areas, such as electrical, plumbing, carpentry, civil construction, painting and decorating, auto-electrical, signage and graphics, automotive manufacturing, heavy vehicle mechanics, horticulture, engineering fabrication and sports turf management.

9. The tertiary work experience program allows high performing Brisbane-based tertiary students to gain work experience across Council. Placements are evolving to mirror current flexible working options including working from home and the office. This program has had success building relationships with Indigenous support units of local universities, with the view of creating more opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to complete placements. Since its inception, the program has 65 domestic and two international students who have joined Council in a paid capacity. Future planning for this program will include identifying and creating pathways to employment in Council’s para‑technical roles. This program currently has 25 students working up to 30 days each calendar year, or longer if required, for a mandatory and assessable component of their study. Students in this program work across a range of disciplines including science and human movement, public relations and marketing, communications and events, creative industries, urban planning, engineering, business and human resources, social work, and landscape architecture.

10. The traineeship program is for people interested in gaining a traineeship qualification. The positions provide on‑the-job work experience and training conducted by an RTO. The positions are temporary for 12 to 24 months depending on the qualification. The program has received positive feedback about the targeted support provided for trainees via the Autism Queensland mentoring program and has provided culturally appropriate mentoring and cultural awareness support to trainees, team leaders and team members.

11. The DAaW program is for people with a disability and provides individuals with on-the-job paid work experience to compete effectively for jobs and gain self-confidence in managing their career. The program supports team leaders and recruiters in building diverse and inclusive teams and raises awareness about disability and inclusive recruitment practices. Seven of the 10 participants from the current cohort have retained roles with Council post-program. Strong relationships are being built with key external stakeholders and disability support agencies, such as Autism Queensland, Vision Australia and Help Enterprises.

12. The Civic Cabinet Chair thanked the Chief Human Resources Officer for her informative update.

13. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillor HUANG, the 8 March report, please.

### FINANCE AND CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Steven HUANG, A/Civic Cabinet Chair of the Finance and City Governance Committee, moved, seconded by Councillor Angela OWEN, that the report of the meeting of that Committee held on 8 March 2022, be adopted.

Deputy Chair: Councillor HUANG.

Councillor HUANG: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair.

In the meeting, Councillor CUNNINGHAM gave an update on early response to the flood event from officers in Finance and City Governance area of Council. The Chair also provided much of this information to the Chamber last week and I’d like to say that on behalf of the LORD MAYOR, we thank all the officers involved in the LDCC for their tireless efforts in coordinating the responses to this unprecedented event.

Also, as part of the flood recovery, our Corporate Finance team and Support Services Centre has worked swiftly to implement the LORD MAYOR’s announcement of rate relief. The online application went live yesterday and we have already received many hundreds of applications. We hope that everyone who was affected by the flood and who needs assistance applied for the rebate and I hope all Councillors will assist in promoting the application form.

I leave further debate to the Chamber.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor HUANG.

Is there any further debate? I see no one standing.

We’ll now put the report.

Upon being submitted to the Chamber, the motion for the adoption of the Finance and City Governance Committee was declared **carried** on the voices.

The report read as follows⎯

**ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Fiona Cunningham (Civic Cabinet Chair), Councillor Steven Huang (Deputy Chair), and Councillors Lisa Atwood, Angela Owen, Jonathan Sri and Charles Strunk.

#### A CHAIR UPDATE ON EARLY RESPONSE TO THE 2022 BRISBANE FLOODING EVENT

**538/2021-22**

1. The Chair provided an update on the early response to the 2022 Brisbane flooding event. She provided the information below.

2. The Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) provides a focal point for Council’s coordination and prioritisation of resources and assets to support recovery in a disaster or emergency event. In mid‑February, City Resilience (CR) officially returned its status to Alert, after nearly two years at Lean Forward in support of the Queensland Police-led Brisbane District Disaster Coordination Centre, which had a key role in the pandemic response.

3. CR and the LDCC were moved to Lean Forward status after Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) began predicting heavy rainfall conditions would be prolonged and widespread. In response to the escalation in forecasts, Stand Up was initiated for LDCC as at 6am on Saturday 26 February 2022.

4. The LDCC draws staff from across all divisions from a range of areas and functions across Council. In a single shift there are approximately 30 staff organised into various teams, made up of an incident controller and deputy incident controller, and including operations, planning, intelligence, Councillor liaison, the Emergency Human Services Operations Team, crisis communications, Information Services and CR. In addition, liaison officers from external organisations join the LDCC, including Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. In this instance, the LDCC also included an Australian Defence Force Liaison Officer.

5. The level of damage and financial impacts of previous storm and flood events in Brisbane were significantly different to this flood. The 2022 event included significant creek and overland flow flooding, in addition to river flooding, which comprised the majority of the 2011 event. Concurrent with the recovery response, Council is also undertaking a rapid assessment and estimation of damage, additional operating costs as well as lost revenue.

6. Documentation and reporting procedures are in place to support claims for insurance and Natural Disaster Relief Funding Arrangements through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

7. The financial impacts and responses to the 2022 Brisbane flooding event will be incorporated into Council’s budget and financial planning models.

8. The Chair expressed thanks to the Council staff who are working around the clock in response to the flood event.

9. **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL NOTE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT.**

**ADOPTED**

Deputy Chair: Councillors, we move on to consideration of notified motions.

## CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFIED MOTION:

*(Notified motions are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**539/2021-22**

The Deputy Chair, Councillor Steven TOOMEY, then drew the Councillors’ attention to the notified motion listed on the agenda, and called on Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS to move the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Steve GRIFFITHS moved, seconded by Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON—

*That Brisbane City Council reintroduces a voluntary flood buyback scheme.*

Deputy Chair: Is there any debate?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes. Sorry, the sound is going in and out. This is a really clear, simple motion and it is to say that the voluntary home buyback scheme was introduced in 2005 by a Labor Administration. We did have a Liberal Mayor then but it was a Labor majority. In 2018 the program was cut by the LNP even though the LNP had actually commissioned a report in 2011 following the floods then, and that report actually reinforced the need for more voluntary home buyback and for it to be part of a comprehensive program of dealing with flooding in the suburbs.

I believe that that program made a lot of sense. It made a lot of sense for the residents I represented, and many residents, certainly in my area there were over 50 residents chose to sell their homes and move off the floodplain and Council bought that land back. The land is very low-lying land and the land—these homes were flooding not just once every 10 years; they were flooding once or twice a year in their living rooms.

The difficulty with that was that many of us weren’t aware of that, but when this expert panel came together they actually thought that this was a good idea. The mayor at the time, Campbell Newman, thought it was a good idea and the Liberal majority actually thought it was a good idea too and voted for it. Since then we’ve had a change of mayor and we’ve lost that program.

What’s become evident to me and most people is that flooding is going to occur more regularly. Climate change is with us and this is one of the side effects of climate change, is the impacts on our environment and on our cities so I believe we need to be proactive. Hence, I’m calling for the reinstatement of this program as well as complementing it with the Sustainable Brisbane program which actually looks assisting residents to raze homes. With that program, I think we can get a balance that’s right for our city.

I note that neither of those programs are means-tested and yes, it costs a lot of money to do that but it resolves a problem that we’re dealing with now every 10 years, and I gather a very expensive problem not just for us but for State and Federal governments.

I would say that I really believe the program should be voluntary so residents should have a choice about buying, and the LORD MAYOR is right, towards the end of the program there weren’t as many people selling through the program. That was because over time, my experience is people down at Rocklea or areas that flood see a beautiful green landscape and beautiful parks and then they say what a great place to live and they’re not aware of the flooding impacts or the severity of the flooding impacts there. I really think those homes are better off the market altogether.

The few things I would say in relation to this is that it’s very important to deal with this in a systematic way and not be bringing this to the Chamber every few years. I think we’ve actually got to have an approach where we say we’ve got to deal with climate change and dealing with climate change is not just about carbon credits, it’s also about looking at the way we respond to our physical environment and keep residents safe.

Just out of interest, we had a debate earlier today—earlier tonight—where a resident—where I represented a resident and asked for a meeting with myself, the LORD MAYOR, and a resident in Galah Street. It’s interesting that I’ve had a phone call from that resident who tells me that he’s already met with the LORD MAYOR. So, the LORD MAYOR during the meeting, this meeting tonight, has actually gone out and met with him. Didn’t obviously want me there which I think he’d made pretty clear, and that resident said that the LORD MAYOR did actually make a commitment to reintroducing this program and to also extending this sustainability program.

So, I can only take that as feedback that it’s certainly being looked at by the Administration, and I think—I will, and I know the resident is, certainly we’re both taking that as a win for getting some common sense back into this voluntary flood buyback scheme. I also understand that the LORD MAYOR is looking at it in relation to the upcoming budget. I don’t think that’s been a bad day in Council to be able to get the LORD MAYOR out to a resident in Rocklea in Galah Street and have him meet with that resident—with his media advisor, I understand—and actually see firsthand what residents in Rocklea are going through.

And I look forward to having the LORD MAYOR out more times to meet with more residents, and maybe I’ve got to move this motion each week for different residents so that he’ll go out there and visit them and see their problems and see the issues they’re facing. I really call on all Councillors to support this motion for the reintroduction of a voluntary buyback scheme. It is what we need to do for the future of our city and the future of a changing climate. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Is there further speakers?

Councillor McLACHLAN.

Councillor McLACHLAN: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to join this debate and note that it was under the former Lord Mayor Campbell Newman that the Taskforce into Suburban Flooding was created back in 2005, and the Lord Mayor was, as Councillor GRIFFITHS said, saddled with a Labor majority in Cabinet and why did Campbell Newman as Lord Mayor see the need to have a taskforce into suburban flooding? It’s because this is what the Labor Administration had done when there was a Labor Lord Mayor, had put into place in response to flooding. Nada, absolutely nothing. Nada.

So, it certainly was a recommendation of the taskforce that the Lord Mayor then created. When we’re in our—the millennial drought, by the way, and everybody thought he was crazy for starting to talk about flooding at the time but that was what the Lord Mayor introduced through the flooding task force.

I would like to quote from the Annual Report from that year, because it wasn’t just the voluntary home purchase scheme that was introduced. That was one of the mechanisms that was undertaken under the taskforce which included—and I’ll read what it says about the voluntary home purchase scheme—the Flooding Taskforce Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme facilitates the voluntary purchase of properties from residents so that they can relocate from homes affected by one-in-two-year flood events.

Council has created a policy for the scheme and now has several properties under negotiation. The Flooding Taskforce Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme is the first of its kind in Queensland at this scale with Council being the first to establish and fund its own voluntary purchase program, but it was amongst several other elements that were also introduced, including investing in local flood advice, forecasting and warning systems, and installing new telemetry stations in three locations and making sure people are aware of the results of that data, not covering it up, by the way. Created the Compensatory Earthworks Planning Scheme Policy for proposed earthworks in a waterway corridor, developed external education programs to improve the community’s understanding of flooding, reviewed Council’s legal liabilities around flood risk management and provided flood advice, spent $15 million on improving the capacity of Council’s drainage network to reduce local flooding including the management and clearance of vegetation in local creeks.

That’s from the Annual Report 2005-06. These are the things that were introduced on Campbell Newman’s watch to make sure that the previous Administration’s failure to provide this information to residents of Brisbane was made absolutely clear. It was on his watch that it was introduced.

Now, it’s important to note that the 2011 Flood Commission of Inquiry did also reference the voluntary home purchase scheme which Council had been undertaking as a good program addressing those properties more susceptible to flooding. It also suggested that other levels of government, the State and Federal government consider supporting the expansion of the scheme, and this is what the scheme says, what the Commission, the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry said.

It says this, I quote: ‘property buyback programs are expensive to administer and the lack of available funding is a major limiting factor to their implementation as a flood risk mitigation measure. Given the cost involved, property acquisition by government tends only to occur in very high-risk areas and only where other flood risk mitigation measures are insufficient to protect lives.’ It goes on to say: ‘councils are unable to obtain funds directly from the National Disaster Resilience program in this regard. It is for the Queensland Government to determine each application’s eligibility for funding.’

So clearly there is support for programs but clearly, it needs to be supported by other levels of government as well. Under the scheme that was introduced by Council, solely by Council and funded solely by Council, there were 112 properties that were purchased under the scheme since 2006. But the reality is, as we are well aware, that many of those property owners who were eligible did not wish to sell, so that was where the flood resilience program came into place to help people who were in flooded areas deal with flooding so they could stay *in situ* where they wanted to stay without being forced to move on, and that’s what has been going—and that’s what’s been happening with that particular program.

But, Mr Deputy Chair, given the LORD MAYOR’s support for continuing the voluntary flood buyback scheme, which we all support, I would like to move an amendment acknowledging the errors that were in the initial motion and to make some changes to the motion.

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT TO NOTIFIED MOTION:**

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| --- |
| **540/2021-22**  It was moved by Councillor David McLACHLAN, seconded by the DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, that the notified motion be **amended** by the removal and insertion of such words so that the motion would read as follows:  *That Brisbane City Council supports reintroducing the Flood Taskforce Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme, subject to State and Federal Government funding support.* |

Deputy Chair: Councillor McLACHLAN.

Councillor McLACHLAN: That’s correct, Mr. Deputy Chair. This is entirely consistent with the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry when it referenced buyback and land swaps. It is the reality that the amount of money that could otherwise be committed by Council to flood buybacks is insufficient to meet the needs without the support of State and Federal governments. So, this motion makes absolute sense if we add those words, subject to State and Federal funding support, and supporting reintroducing what was initially introduced as, and it shall remain, the Flooding Taskforce Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme. I support this amendment and I hope that Councillors in this place will do so.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor McLACHLAN.

Further speakers?

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks very much, Chair. The motion was very clear and straightforward and if the Administration didn’t want to support that, they could have just not supported it and made that argument. But what Councillor McLACHLAN, who is supposedly the Independent Chair of Council has now come down to enter this debate, obviously because this Administration doesn’t—or the LORD MAYOR doesn’t trust the relevant Chair to do so.

This amendment substantially changes the original motion and Councillor McLACHLAN’s argument for this amendment is that it’s consistent with something else, not consistent with the motion that’s before us today. So, this substantially changes this motion that was before us today, which is that Brisbane City Council reintroduced a voluntary flood buyback scheme and substantially changes that to say that Brisbane City Council supports the reintroduction of a Flood Taskforce Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme subject to State and Federal government funding support.

So, there’s the weasel words in there, so this Administration—so the LORD MAYOR, as we’ve heard from Councillor GRIFFITHS, has gone out to this resident’s house and has sold them a pup, has said I’ll come and meet with you, I’ll tell you what you want to hear, be quiet, go away and while he sends his henchmen in here to do the dirty work to make sure—to make sure that this Administration doesn’t deliver, doesn’t deliver on this.

So, Councillor McLACHLAN gave us a lovely history lesson and basically explained that when Campbell Newman was elected Premier soon after the 2011 floods, in 2012, obviously decided not to—obviously decided not to fund—to co‑fund the voluntary—the purchase of homes. We’ve had the Federal Liberal or National Party governments, the friends of successive LNP Lord Mayors in this place not come to the party and provide funding support since 2013.

And this LNP Administration, despite Councillor McLACHLAN getting up here and saying—and crowing and saying that it was all Campbell Newman, the Liberal Lord Mayor and later LNP Lord Mayor who did this all by himself and it was all the LNP apparently, cut the funding in 2018. So, they cut the funding to this program in 2018, this LORD MAYOR has gone to local residents who have been affected time and time again and said, sure, sure, we’ll reintroduce this program, then sends Councillor McLACHLAN here to amend the motion that is before us today to make sure that it doesn’t, make sure that they don’t have to deliver on this program in the budget.

So, we can just imagine that the LORD MAYOR—or there’ll be a line item in there that says we’ll allocate X amount of dollars over the next four years subject to Federal and State funding for this so this LORD MAYOR, again, doesn’t have to deliver on his promises.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor CASSIDY: Just like the green bridges, that’s right, and we know that they’re softening up and we’ll see that in next week’s Council meeting, softening up for the slashing of that project as well. So, Chair, we won’t be supporting this amendment because the motion before us is very straightforward. It was a Council program that ran for a long time, it’s a Council program that is appropriate to go forward.

And what is happening here today, after we just heard some strange diatribe lecture from Councillor MATIC about all working together and not playing politics, we see the LNP come in here and play politics, not just play politics in this place but also play politics with the lives of residents who have been deeply affected, deeply affected out at Rocklea by what we’ve seen over the last two weeks.

Deputy Chair: Just one—thank you, Councillor CASSIDY. Can I have a bit of silence in the Chamber, please? I’m having trouble hearing everybody as well as the machine doing the grinding outside. And Councillor GRIFFITHS, if you’re not speaking can you please mute your microphone please? There’s a lot of scratching coming from your laptop. Thank you.

Any further speakers? I see nobody is standing.

Councillor McLACHLAN, would you like to sum up, please?

You have five minutes.

Councillor McLACHLAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. Look, I think this change is entirely logical. It says that we support reintroducing the Flood Taskforce Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme and logically making that subject to State and Federal government funding support. It’s an entirely laudable objective, reintroducing the Flooding Taskforce Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme, recognising the need for funding support from State and Federal governments.

This is the essence of the original motion, although acknowledging that it was a home purchase scheme, not a flood purchase scheme, but anyway, so that’s been corrected on the way through.

It is the Flooding Taskforce Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme subject to State and Federal government funding support, entirely consistent with the sorts of views that came out of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry, entirely consistent with every other examination of the voluntary home purchase schemes in flooding circumstances, recognising that Council’s resources are limited and if this is to work it does need the support of the other levels of government. I think this amendment is entirely sensible—or sorry, the motion is now entirely sensible and I ask all Councillors in this place to support it.

Deputy Chair: Right, we will now vote on the acceptance of the amendment.

The Deputy Chair put the motion for the amendment to the notified motion to the Chamber resulting in it being declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors David McLACHLAN and Sandy LANDERS immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 17 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Peter MATIC, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY and Andrew WINES.

NOES: 4 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Peter CUMMING, Steve GRIFFITHS and Charles STRUNK.

Deputy Chair: Thank you. The amendment is now the substantive motion.

Councillors, are there any further speakers?

Councillor MATIC.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor MATIC: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chairman.

Deputy Chair: Just one second, Councillor MATIC.

Councillor CUMMING, I heard that.

Councillor CUMMING: I just repeated what he said.

Deputy Chair: That’s not the point.

Councillor CUMMING: I apologise and I withdraw my comment.

Deputy Chair: Can you turn your mic on please so I can get that on the record?

Councillor CUMMING: I withdraw my comment.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CUMMING: And apologise to Councillor MATIC.

Deputy Chair: Thank you very much.

Councillor MATIC, you have the call.

Councillor OWEN, yes. If you’re going to ask a question you rise in your seat and call for a point of order, but we’re not going to do that because Councillor MATIC has the call.

Councillor MATIC.

Councillor MATIC: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair, and I’m not surprised, I expected something from the Labor Party, that’s the way they act. Mr Chairman—Deputy Chairman, I rise to speak in support of this motion and what it represents, because it actually represents reality. It’s important to understand the background in order to understand the motion itself.

In 2003, Campbell Newman then as the Lord Mayoral candidate, made sure that one of his strongest focuses was around what Council was doing at the time with its flooding reports, because at the particular time under the Quinn Administration, there was a report that they had that was done by the officers and an assessment of overland flow and flooding, a report that was not favourable in their minds as to what impacts that would have on the local community across the city.

And so for a period of almost four years they withheld that report in order to try to work out what they were going to do with it. It actually came to light, and Hedley Thomas at the time wrote an article in *The Courier-Mail*, and the matter had actually been referred to the CCC (Crime and Corruption Commission)—or at that time it was the CMC (Crime and Misconduct Commission)—and the article was *Crime Body Probes Flood Level Cover-up*, and the article itself clearly stated that the Crime and Misconduct Commission investigators have begun probing the Brisbane City Council’s cover-up of findings on flood levels.

The investigation began as Lord Mayor Tom—Tim Quinn strenuously defended the Council’s actions in failing to provide residents with information from the Brisbane River Flood Study. It has held that study out of public sight for four years. And so that was the history of Labor in Council when it came to managing flooding and information to residents, to cover up the bad news because they didn’t know how to be honest and accountable with the electorate, with the voters on what impacts that would have on their home.

So, go forwards, Campbell Newman is elected in 2004 in a split Council, and he has to deal with an ALP majority, but he’s committed to making sure that he delivers on his commitments to Brisbane residents and one of those is about flooding and about flood reports. And so he wanted to make sure that Council was open and accountable in its reporting, that the information was easily accessible, and that residents had the information or the ability to also take steps themselves to address overland flow and flooding.

And so in 2005, in February of 2005, he announced what was then called the Lord Mayor’s Taskforce on Suburban Flooding. It was a comprehensive investigation across the city, in particular hotspots. The process was quite hands on, in that it involved residents directly who were impacted as stakeholders. It had experts, community leaders, Council officers, and the oversight of Campbell Newman as Lord Mayor.

And in September of 2005, that report was released, and it covered a number of important factors around, again, accountability and openness of the information for residents, residents having the tools before them to ensure that they could also manage flooding on their land, and the third important factor was what was called the voluntary buyback scheme.

So, it was Campbell Newman initially who introduced that report to the city. He released the report in September and in November it came to the Chamber as a formal E&C. We heard Councillor GRIFFITHS just before say that it was the ALP who actually introduced it. It’s important that we do correct the record, but I’ll use words—not mine, but of a fellow Councillor of his at the time, Victoria Newton, who I’m sure is listening at the moment, she’s a policy advisor—who says “yes, Mr Chairperson, I wish to speak on item G briefly. First of all, I would like to say that I welcome the Lord Mayor’s Taskforce on Suburban Flooding, or creek flooding really as it is known, and I am to congratulate the Lord Mayor Campbell Newman for bringing this together and for Civic Cabinet bringing this forward today.”

So, Mr Chairman, when we speak about what this Administration historically has done, it is this side of the Chamber that has focused on these things. It has never stepped away from its responsibility and its commitment to Brisbane residents in a flood-prone city and it always continues to do so as it does today.

When you interestingly look at the speech of Councillor GRIFFITHS on 15 November in this Chamber at the time, he welcomed the report and then immediately started to criticise the Lord Mayor for not providing enough funding and criticise the Lord Mayor for the timeframes. He said it was a beginning but it wasn’t good enough. In fact, when I listened to him speak just before in this report, I thought he was practically repeating the speech that he gave in 2005, not acknowledging who first brought it in but simply criticising automatically and speaking about the residents of Rocklea and his ward, as he does as local Councillor, but again not supporting, but criticising.

And it’s fascinating, Mr Deputy Chairman, when you look at this because you would make it think that somehow this Administration or this Administration historically has failed the people of Brisbane and that the ALP has done so much in order to support the people of Brisbane in this particular initiative.

But it’s interesting the fact that Councillor Nicholls at the time, who assisted the Lord Mayor with putting the budget together, said this: ‘thank you, Mr Chairman. It refers to the Lord Mayor’s Flooding Taskforce and I think if you are going to have a report that has been prepared, you also need to have an understanding of what was not done that led to the report being here in front of us.’

Here we have the establishment of the Lord Mayor’s Taskforce on Suburban Flooding in February 2005. Nothing about a Lord Mayor’s taskforce in February 2004, 2003, 2002. Nothing any earlier than February 2005. What we had at that stage in the terms of understanding flooding was a series of reports in relation to creeks, but it was not available to the public.

So, this LORD MAYOR at the time introduces this voluntary purchase scheme, the ALP has never even thought about doing something like that, and when he does do it, it’s not good enough. And then through the years, it continues to be not good enough, despite the millions of dollars that this Administration historically has invested in it.

Now, Councillor GRIFFITHS speaks and has always spoken about this scheme forgetting the term that it’s actually voluntary and choosing instead to simply put it out there as if people will fall over themselves to take this option up, but the reality of the situation, Mr Deputy Chairman, is actually quite different. In 2006‑07 when the scheme was introduced, there were 108 properties approached for purchase.

The total at that time was 11. In 2007-08, 39 approached, eight purchases. In 2008‑09, 21 approached, 11 purchased. In fact, the numbers continued to be so low, it was not until the 2011 flood that 32 were approached and 25 were purchased. That in itself was a record amount.

Of the 347 properties that were approached in meeting the test of a one‑in‑two‑year event, there was only 112 people that took that option up, one third, and interestingly, when Councillor GRIFFITHS talks about how his ward is somehow being forgotten, the reality is that his ward had 42 of the 112 throughout that time, so he literally had one third of all the purchases in his ward as opposed to any other ward that was flood‑affected or met the criteria at the time.

So the reality is very different to the picture that Councillor GRIFFITHS speaks of. This Administration has continued to evolve the program year upon year adding funding to it as it was required, reflecting the fact that a lot of people within those flood prone areas, Rocklea being one of them, knew where they lived and lived with it and did not want to sell their homes because they’d dealt with it in the ordinary course.

That’s the point that Councillor GRIFFITHS is choosing to avoid in all of his speeches about the fact that this is a voluntary scheme. With the support of the LORD MAYOR and with this amendment that we’ve now made to properly reflect the reality of the commission of inquiry report it is still a voluntary scheme. So we have at this point in time one of the most catastrophic events that this city has ever faced, so there are now people asking for that option. However, at the end of the day how many people will take it up, we don’t know.

But this Administration has a long history of actually listening to and meeting the needs of the community. As Councillor GRIFFITHS has just said, the LORD MAYOR has met with one of his constituents and spoken to him about this very scheme. Yet we’re being criticised for it. Mr Chairman, at the end of the day—

Deputy Chair: Your time has expired Councillor MATIC. Thank you.

Councillor MATIC: Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Further speakers?

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you, Mr Chair. I am speaking on the amended motion. It just goes to reinforce for me what snakes the LNP are and how they really need to be out of power in this city—

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Hang on one second Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —and what a snake the LORD MAYOR is.

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: So to actually—

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Sorry?

Deputy Chair: We are not going to use that language.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Snake?

Deputy Chair: We’re not going to call people snakes.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I just did.

Deputy Chair: We are talking to the amendment.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I just called him a snake.

Deputy Chair: We are talking to the amended motion.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: You can give me a warning.

Councillor OWEN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: Point of order, Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Mr Chair, I find that Councillor GRIFFITHS’ language is offensive and I ask he withdraw.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I won’t withdraw it, no. So I think what is appalling—

Deputy Chair: One second, Councillor GRIFFITHS. Just hold up for one second will you, please. Can you consider withdrawing what you just said?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: No, I won’t withdraw it.

Deputy Chair: Then in that case I’m asking you to withdraw it.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: No, I won’t withdraw it.

Deputy Chair: Okay.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Can I speak now?

Deputy Chair: Sorry, just give me one second. Councillor GRIFFITHS, I consider that you are displaying unsuitable meeting conduct and in accordance with section 21(4) of the *Meetings Local Law 2001*. I hereby request that you cease calling Councillors names and refrain from exhibiting that conduct. You have the call.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Are you going to have me escorted out by the police too?

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS to the amended motion please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: This is the only democratic institution in the country that escorts people out by the police.

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: It’s an LNP institution. It’s just appalling.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR. DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Anyway back to the debate.

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS to the amendment please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: What was that?

Deputy Chair: We are here to exercise the business of this Council. To the amendment please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: That’s what I’m trying to talk about.

Councillor MURPHY: Point of order, Chair.

Deputy Chair: Just one second Councillor GRIFFITHS, sorry. We’ve got another point of order.

Point of order, Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor MURPHY: Chair, I just ask that you show some leniency on Councillor GRIFFITHS. Councillor OWEN had to lead the flood recovery in his ward because he was clearly doing other things at the time. I’m sure he is a bit distracted by what’s happening here in the Chamber at the moment. He’s had a hard time, Chair, please.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MURPHY I do not consider that an appropriate point of order.

Councillor GRIFFITHS please continue.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Does he get a warning, Mr Chair? No.

Deputy Chair: I’ve just told him it’s not an appropriate point of order. Can you please continue.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Okay. I just like the fairness of the chairing here.

Deputy Chair: I appreciate that you think I’m fair. Please continue.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I don’t actually. The point here is that the Administration are running for cover. They cut this funding. They cut this program. The LNP cut it. All these Councillors sitting here, you cut it. It has been in my budget submission forever. It’s been in the last two budget submissions to the LORD MAYOR. Neither the LORD MAYOR has chosen to re-fund it or any of the LNP Councillors sitting on that side of the Chamber. So it doesn’t surprise me that the LORD MAYOR went out and visited a resident and led him to believe that the program was coming back in this budget.

What he didn’t tell him was the con that he was putting him through, was that it’s subject to State and Federal funding. Well it has never in the past been subject to State and Federal funding. The funding has always come from Council. The program I believe should continue to come from Council. Yes, let’s try funding from the State and Federal Government. I notice that none of your mates, when Campbell Newman got in and went off to be premier for three years and cause havoc on the State, he didn’t come through with any funding. I notice your little mate ScoMo hasn’t come through with any funding—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —even though he’s got $400 million sitting there now. So you can’t even get money out of those people—couldn’t get money out of those people so what hope are you going to have of getting money out of other governments. In fact I don’t think—listening to Councillor MATIC—I don’t think there’s any interest in these residents. I don’t think there’s any compassion for these residents. I think they’re seen as residents in Rocklea who chose to live there in a flooded area and tough luck. That’s what I think the Liberals are saying. You may as well just say it up front rather than go around in this sort of meanly, measly little way that you do it.

I am just astounded that you—it’s such a simple motion that you couldn’t support the reintroduction of voluntary flood buyback scheme—flooded home buyback scheme. I think it’s probably very deceptive of the LORD MAYOR. I know he’s cunning and he’s gone out there and met with this resident. This resident actually thinks Council is going to do something about this. Well the sad thing is he’s fooled. He’s duped. Just like people thought we were going to do something about flooding in Rocklea. There’s just no genuineness to what you’re saying. It doesn’t surprise me.

I will continue to be on the residents’ side to say that we should be funding this as a Council. We should be resolving these issues of residents who are affected by flooding. Because I’ve been in their homes. I’ve seen what they go through. I think my role in this city is to bring that to the attention of this Chamber. I get it. You’re Liberals and you represent wealthy people and you represent—you’re very conservative.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: That’s what you believe.

Deputy Chair: One second Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I get all that. I understand all that.

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITS: But I don’t think there’s any need to be mean about it.

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Point of order DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Chair. Can we debate the substantive motion, not play the man. The imputing motive that we have listened to for the last five minutes is totally out of line.

Deputy Chair: DEPUTY MAYOR I understand your point of order.

Councillor GRIFFITHS can you please come back to the amended motion please?

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Well I think I’m saying the truth. I don’t think—

Deputy Chair: I honestly don’t—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: —saying anything.

Deputy Chair: I honestly don’t—

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I don’t think I’m saying anything that’s not accurate.

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, I am speaking.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I think you’ve changed the motion.

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS, I am speaking.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Sorry, I can’t—

Deputy Chair: I am speaking. When I speak, you stop.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I couldn’t hear you speaking.

*Councillors interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Can you come back to the motion please. We are not here to play class politics. We are debating the motion.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Are you participating in the debate?

Deputy Chair: No. Can you just debate the motion please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: If I want to raise class politics, I’ll raise class politics and if you don’t like it, that’s your problem.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: The motion is very much—

Deputy Chair: Just one moment DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: The motion is very much against the people of Rocklea.

Deputy Chair: Councillor GRIFFITHS. Please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: This is a democracy, you know. People are allowed to actually say things that you don’t like.

*Councillors interjecting.*

DEPUTY MAYOR: Point of order, Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Deputy Chair: One person speaking at a time and when I speak, everyone else stops. Everyone. Those to my left, those to my right and those in front of me. You stop. Am I clear? I’m not asking for an answer by the way.

DEPUTY MAYOR, your point of order.

Councillor GRIFFITHS this is not funny.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: I think you’re a joke.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Just one second, DEPUTY MAYOR.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, as you fail to comply with the request—sorry I’ve read the wrong one—I am going to warn you one last time, otherwise I am going to record in the minutes your conduct. Now I am trying to address a point of order which I am meant to do by the Meetings Local Law. If you cannot give the Councillors who raise that point of order the respect to stop so I can hear it, so I can address it, as is required by the Meetings Local Law, God help you.

DEPUTY MAYOR your point of order please.

Councillor OWEN: Point of order.

Deputy Chair: No, one point of order at a time Councillor OWEN. Sit please.

DEPUTY MAYOR.

DEPUTY MAYOR: Thank you, Mr Deputy Chair. I just ask for a ruling on the inappropriate conduct of the continual imputing motive when you’ve asked Councillor GRIFFITHS to stop that.

Deputy Chair: I understand it’s a long night. I understand there is a lot of emotion in the room. I am happy to give Councillor GRIFFITHS some leniency because I know how impassioned he is about this motion. However, I will ask Councillor GRIFFITHS to not call people names, to cease speaking when I am speaking and to get back to the amended motion please.

Councillor OWEN: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Deputy Chair: Councillor OWEN your point of order.

Councillor OWEN: Yes, Mr Chair, I would like you to—I seek a ruling from you in regards to Councillor GRIFFITHS’ inappropriate conduct defying your ruling to not call Councillors in this place names. He was warned for calling Councillors on this side of the Chamber snakes and he has now called you a joke.

Deputy Chair: Councillor OWEN thank you. Thank you Councillor OWEN. Thank you for your point of order. I clearly believe I have shot a couple of shots across Councillor GRIFFITHS’ bow now, and if he does not wish to behave well then we will move further into the red tabs. I’m pretty sure he is aware of that.

Councillor GRIFFITHS, the amendment please.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Just in summary I’m just really disappointed this has been changed by the LNP who cut this funding and I think it’s a really retrograde step for our city. It’s also a retrograde step for the future of the city in terms of we know there’s going to be massive environmental impacts into the future. It’s not a progressive thing to do. Leave it at that.

Deputy Chair: Thank you Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Any further speakers?

Councillor DAVIS.

Councillor DAVIS: Thank you, Deputy Chair. In all the time that I’ve been in this Chamber I have—I have not heard anything like I’ve just heard now. Councillor MATIC spoke during his contribution about all of us seeing devastation in our wards, some at different levels. In my own ward, pockets where people have never seen overland flow before, found that flooding went through their homes. To sit through this debate and hear the language coming from Councillor GRIFFITHS in such a demeaning and unnecessary way, really lowers the tone of the debate.

I would just like to rise, Deputy Chair, to support the amended motion. I want to put on record from the outset that the LORD MAYOR has been out in Rocklea tonight. He has been out meeting with a resident in relation to the flood impact on their property which was the subject of a motion earlier today. I just want to let the Chamber know that I understand that it was a positive meeting with that resident. Deputy Chair, I wasn’t here in 2005. So what I thought I might do is go and get the minutes from that meeting.

Councillor MATIC referred to a number of contributions during that debate. What I can tell you, it’s like groundhog day. Listening to Councillor GRIFFITHS tonight, the way he spoke about other Councillors’ residents in a way that really showed nothing more than class politics.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: No personal insight.

Deputy Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Deputy Chair: Councillor MURPHY.

Councillor DAVIS: I’ll take that interjection. It was disgraceful. The then Councillor for—I think it was still Hamilton Ward—Councillor Tim Nicholls responded to those class politics claims by Councillor GRIFFITHS and he was 100% right. Whilst we do appreciate that Councillor GRIFFITHS is concerned and is passionate about the people in his community every single Councillor in this Chamber feels exactly the same about theirs. To hear what came from Councillor GRIFFITHS as if the world stops in Rocklea is really unfair to all of those other residents that were impacted by the recent flooding events here in Brisbane.

The comments from Councillor GRIFFITHS that somehow that the voluntary home purchase scheme was some sort of Labor initiative is incredible, and this from the party that brought you the flood cover-up. You couldn’t get information about flood mapping unless you made a special appointment with a Council officer. But it was an LNP Administration that made that information available to all residents. It was an LNP Administration that continued to update that information so that residents could understand in very clear and easy terms the impacts that could occur in different types of flooding scenarios when weather events occur.

I would note, Councillor MATIC, some other comments by Councillor Newton back in 2005. So the issue is enormous in its task. Of course that’s perhaps why Administrations in the past have not ventured forth, because it was a too-hard basket item.

*Councillor interjecting.*

Councillor DAVIS: That’s exactly right. This was an item that required some element of courage and risk in a political context to do it, to bring it forward and to start to address some of these issues. That’s exactly what Lord Mayor Campbell Newman did by setting up the taskforce. It was an LNP Lord Mayor that decided that Council needed to be looking at issues around flooding. Brisbane is built on a floodplain. It is part of our reality. As I think it might have been Councillor McLACHLAN said—oh it may have been Councillor MATIC—that the then Lord Mayor was looking well in advance of any flooding before 2011 because he could see that we needed to start to address and consider the impacts of flooding across this city.

In his summing up in that debate the Lord Mayor made some observations which I’d like to share with you tonight. “In relation to the discussions this afternoon about the flooding taskforce, well I am just fascinated by so many people who got religion so quickly. I used to sit in that gallery for around two years and look down here, and I never heard a peep about these matters. Councillor GRIFFITHS, who was admittedly a more recent arrival into the Chamber in 2003, well I never heard him say any of these things. I never heard him once ever, ever speak about the needs of his local residents, never once. Never heard him calling for a taskforce. Never heard him point out that there were these problems down in his area. Never heard him asking for raising of houses or purchasing of houses. Not any of those things.”

Mr Chair—Mr Deputy Chair, to come in here and start to make the accusations and comments that Councillor GRIFFITHS did is simply unacceptable. This is a Chamber for debate and particularly in circumstances that we find ourselves in, in the aftermath of the flood, we should be as Councillor MATIC said, be working together.

The LORD MAYOR today indicated in the strongest terms that he was open to bringing back that scheme, but also to improving the flood resilient homes program. Because it’s not a silver bullet, buying back properties. As the Chamber heard today in the contributions, that not everybody that might sit or be eligible for their home to be purchased under this sort of scheme, wants to move from the house that they’re in. So having alternate options for people to consider, like the flood resilient homes program, which has been very successful through its pilot stage and as we know as a result of these flooding events, hearing great stories from residents who have participated in the program, the LORD MAYOR considering expanding that.

But what we need, Deputy Chair, is additional funding from the State and Federal Governments so that we can address more properties and provide more opportunity to get people onto the flood resilient homes program once we get through the pilot scheme. Mr Deputy Chair, I’m very proud to be part of a team and to work with a LORD MAYOR that does care about all residents in this city. To hear from Councillor GRIFFITHS that the LORD MAYOR doesn’t care about people in Rocklea is absolutely shameful.

The LORD MAYOR was very clear in Question Time today when he spoke about how he cares about everybody in this city. For people that were impacted by the floods, we all have very special thoughts and our hearts go out to them. So, Mr Deputy Chair, I fully support the amendment that has been put forward tonight. I expect that the Councillors in this Chamber will understand that the way that we can move forward and look at purchasing more properties is with the State and Federal Governments’ support. We have a budget of $3.1 billion.

If we purchased every home that was flooded in this event, the 20,000 homes, you would be looking in excess of $16 billion. Now I know not 20,000 homes would need to be purchased but the way that Councillor GRIFFITHS was speaking tonight he would have no idea how many homes might need to be considered. He has no idea what the cost would be to the city. So I think it is incumbent on us as a sensible, as a fiscally responsible Council, to do what we can within our budget but to call on the State and Federal Governments to step up and stump up and help the residents of Brisbane prepare for flooding events in their homes. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Any further speakers? I see no one rising.

We will now put the substantive motion to the vote.

As there was no further debate, the Deputy Chair submitted the motion to the Chamber and it was declared **carried** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors David McLACHLAN and Sandy LANDERS immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **carried**.

The voting was as follows:

AYES: 21 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Krista ADAMS, and Councillors Greg ADERMANN, Adam ALLAN, Tracy DAVIS, Fiona HAMMOND, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Sarah HUTTON, Sandy LANDERS, James MACKAY, Kim MARX, Peter MATIC, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Steven TOOMEY, Andrew WINES, and the Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Jared CASSIDY, and Councillors Peter CUMMING, Steve GRIFFITHS and Charles STRUNK.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS:

Deputy Chair: Councillors, are there any petitions?

Councillor OWEN.

Councillor OWEN: Thank you, Mr Chair. I present an electronic petition that has been lodged from residents in Stretton and another person who lives in Coorparoo Ward, about 10 people, in regards to the parkway at Stretton.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Councillor CASSIDY.

Councillor CASSIDY: Thanks, Deputy Chair. I have one petition on behalf of Councillor SRI which I believe has been emailed through regarding road safety concerns on Ashington Street, West End and also one from residents at Ibis Court, Deagon calling on Council to do rectification works on broken footpaths.

Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Councillor STRUNK. No? No?

Any further petitions?

Councillor LANDERS can I have a motion please?

**541/2021-22**

It was resolved on the motion of Councillor Sandy LANDERS, seconded by Councillor Charles STRUNK, that the petitions as presented be received and referred to the Committee concerned for consideration and report.

The petitions were summarised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **File No.** | **Councillor** | **Topic** |
| 137/220/594/70 | Angela Owen | Requesting Council install speed breakers along The Parkway, Stretton, to improve public safety. |
| 137/220/594/73 | Jared Cassidy on behalf of Jonathan Sri | Requesting Council conduct community consultation, allocate funding for traffic management, and trial a 30 km/h speed limit on Ashington Street, West End, to improve safety and amenity for residents and road users. |
| 137/220/594/72 | Jared Cassidy | Requesting Council undertake footpath improvements to Loftus Street, Braun Street, Board Street, and Ibis Avenue, Deagon, to improve safety for pedestrians. |

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Deputy Chair: Councillors, General Business. Are there any statements required as a result of the Office of the Independent Assessor or Councillor Ethics Committee order? I see no one rising.

I am assuming Councillor WINES, you are not standing? You’re off? Okay, well done.

Are there any items of General Business?

I see no—oh, Councillor CUMMING.

Councillor CUMMING: Just very quickly in her report earlier Councillor DAVIS mentioned Ocean Crusaders. It’s a great local organisation. I just want to give them a plug. They’re based in Lota. They do great clean-ups in Moreton Bay. They’ve taken tonnes of rubbish off some of the islands around Moreton Bay like Green Island, St Helena and the like. They do get money out of the jobs that they do but they’ve also got large numbers of volunteers who assist their projects as well. They’re very clever with technology. They’ve done projects down south in the Yarra River in Melbourne.

They’ve developed vacuum cleaners that operate in the water and pick up the rubbish and everything. So they’ve done a great job. They started in Lota probably about five or 10 years ago, again Ian Thomson and company. They’ve done a great job so I just wanted to give them a plug. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Thank you, Councillor CUMMING.

Are there any further items of General Business? I see no one rising to their feet.

Councillor GRIFFITHS? No.

I declare the meeting closed.

## QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Steven Griffiths (received on 10 March 2022)**

**Q1.** List all locations where backflow devices were installed by Council in the following financial years, including the number installed per location:-

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FINANCIAL YEAR** | **LOCATION** | **NUMBER OF BACKFLOW DEVICES INSTALLED PER LOCATION** |
| 2012-2013 |  |  |
| 2013-2014 |  |  |
| 2014-2015 |  |  |
| 2015-2016 |  |  |

**Q2.** Provide the total amount spent on the *Flood Resilient Homes Program* for each of the following financial years:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2018/19** | **2019/2020** | **2020/2021** | **2021/2022 (TO DATE)** |
|  |  |  |  |

**Q3.** When announced in 2018, the *Flood Resilient Homes Program* was to be delivered over four years. How many households received the in-home professional flood-risk assessment, broken down by suburb.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SUBURB** | **2018/19** | **2019/2020** | **2020/2021** | **2021/2022 (TO DATE)** |
| Rosalie |  |  |  |  |
| Inala North |  |  |  |  |
| [*Add name/s of any other suburb*] |  |  |  |  |

**Q4.** How many households received $50,000 for a flood-resilient retrofit upgrade as part of the *Flood Resilient Homes Program* for each of the following financial years, broken down by suburb.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SUBURB** | **2018/19** | **2019/2020** | **2020/2021** | **2021/2022 (TO DATE)** |
| Rosalie |  |  |  |  |
| Inala North |  |  |  |  |
| [*Add name/s of any other suburb*] |  |  |  |  |

**Q5.** What is the total amount spent on the $50,000 flood-resilient retrofit upgrades as part of the *Flood Resilient Homes Program* for each of the following financial years, broken down by suburb.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SUBURB** | **2018/19** | **2019/2020** | **2020/2021** | **2021/2022 (TO DATE)** |
| Rosalie |  |  |  |  |
| Inala North |  |  |  |  |
| [*Add name/s of any other suburb*] |  |  |  |  |

**Q6.** Provide a list of all companies which have been contracted by Council to assist with the flood clean-up (to date).

**Q7.** During the Brisbane 2022 severe weather event, the Lord Mayor and Deputy Mayor provided regular updates on the number of people who registered as volunteers for the Brisbane Mud Army 2.0. In total, how many people registered as volunteers for the Brisbane Mud Army 2.0 and how many of those volunteers were physically deployed?

**Q8.** Provide all dates where traffic counts were done before the installation of traffic lights at Rickertt and Chelsea Roads.

**Q9.** Advise whether residents paid for their newly upgraded concrete driveways on Rickertt Road, Wakerley or if this was at cost to the project (and if so, how much).

**Q10.** Provide details as to why the decision was made to keep the drainage system still open after all the completion of the Rickertt and Chelsea Roads intersection works, rather than constructing a covered system.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

*(Answers to questions of which due notice has been given are printed as supplied and are not edited)*

**Submitted by Councillor Steve Griffiths (from meeting on 8 March 2022)**

**Q1.** Provide a list of all the dates and times text messages were sent to residents to provide warnings/alerts during the recent Major South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event.

***A1.*** *24 February 2022: 05:17, 11:03, 17:00, 22:03, 22:23, 22:39, 22:50, 22:50, 22:55, 22:58.*

*25 February 2022: 00:36, 00:47, 01:42, 01:56, 02:14, 02:23, 02:44, 04:42, 04:49, 05:22, 06:09, 06:21, 08:06, 08:27, 08:39, 08:43, 09:26, 09:29, 09:46, 10:14, 10:38, 11:00, 11:12, 11:28, 11:29, 11:50, 11:51, 12:58, 13:13, 13:22, 13:26, 13:27, 13:31, 13:50, 13:55, 14:03, 14:08, 14:13, 14:17, 14:27, 14:42, 14:57, 15:00, 15:04, 15:27, 15:54, 15:59, 16:04, 16:14, 16:18, 16:19, 16:28, 16:33, 16:38, 16:42, 16:47, 17:06, 17:09, 17:33, 17:40, 17:51, 18:02, 18:03, 18:05, 18:08, 18:41, 19:09, 19:17, 19:31, 19:35, 19:44, 19:51, 19:52, 19:55, 20:07, 20:08, 20:10, 20:13, 20:15, 20:16, 20:21, 20:22, 22:10, 22:15, 22:21, 22:21, 22:23, 22:54*

*26 February 2022: 00:08, 00:13, 00:14, 00:27, 00:28, 00:42, 00:58, 01:18, 02:44, 03:54, 03:55, 03:56, 04:15, 04:37, 04:38, 04:44, 04:57, 04:58, 05:15, 06:07, 06:08, 07:44, 07:48, 07:48, 07:52, 08:20, 09:10, 10:34, 10:59, 12:03, 12:26, 12:58, 13:07, 13:42, 13:46, 14:28, 16:25, 16:50, 16:50, 17:46, 17:53, 17:54, 18:28, 21:13, 21:27, 21:57, 21:58, 23:00, 00:08, 00:13, 00:14, 00:27, 00:28, 00:42, 00:58, 01:18, 02:44, 03:54, 03:55, 03:56, 04:15, 04:37, 04:38, 04:44, 04:57, 04:58, 05:15, 06:07, 06:08, 07:44, 07:48, 07:48, 07:52, 08:20, 09:10, 10:34, 10:59, 12:03, 12:26, 12:58, 13:07, 13:42, 13:46, 14:28, 16:25, 16:50, 16:50, 17:46, 17:53, 17:54, 18:28, 21:13, 21:27, 21:57, 21:58, 23:00*

*27 February 2022: 02:30, 02:34, 02:44, 04:14, 04:15, 04:17, 04:19, 04:19, 04:23, 04:23, 04:32, 04:44, 04:48, 04:53, 04:56, 04:58, 05:27, 06:06, 06:13, 06:34, 06:44, 06:48, 07:21, 07:32, 08:21, 08:24, 08:33, 08:36, 08:40, 08:42, 08:56, 09:04, 09:09, 09:16, 09:56, 10:36, 10:42, 10:47, 10:48, 10:49, 10:59, 11:19, 12:00, 12:03, 12:05, 12:15, 12:25, 12:29, 12:30, 12:50, 13:12, 13:12, 13:17, 13:18, 13:22, 13:31, 13:40, 13:53, 14:01, 14:09, 14:14, 14:18, 14:27, 14:31, 15:13, 15:32, 15:41, 15:48, 15:55, 16:08, 16:28, 16:30, 16:44, 17:29, 17:57, 18:39, 18:48, 19:59, 20:00, 20:19, 20:30, 20:32, 20:40, 20:42, 21:53, 22:01, 22:07, 22:08, 22:14, 22:41*

*28 February 2022: 05:52, 06:04, 06:21, 06:29, 06:34, 06:41, 06:46, 06:54, 06:54, 06:55, 06:58, 07:15, 07:24, 07:43, 07:43, 08:56, 08:57, 09:17, 18:46, 18:49, 22:03*

*1 March 2022: 05:46, 06:10, 06:57, 07:01, 07:52, 08:28, 09:50, 10:06, 10:09, 19:51, 20:25, 22:19*

*2 March 2022: 07:30, 08:13, 08:47, 09:14, 09:15, 09:33, 10:37, 10:38, 13:50, 22:28*

*3 March 2022: 00:48, 01:09, 02:37, 02:38, 03:30, 04:12, 04:55, 05:30, 05:32, 05:47, 05:53, 06:24, 06:59, 07:19, 07:28, 07:29, 07:33, 07:35, 07:46, 08:16, 08:19, 08:50, 09:04, 09:13, 09:31, 09:53, 11:04, 11:06, 11:49, 12:39, 13:26, 21:53, 22:12*

*Alerts were also sent through the Queensland Government Emergency Alert Platform. As Council does not control this system, we cannot confirm what dates or times the messages were sent.*

**Q2.** Provide a list of all Councillors/ Ward Offices which were not receiving Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) situation reports as the South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event from Sunday 27th February until the morning of Monday 28th February.

***A2.*** *All ward offices received all situation reports on Sunday the 27th of February and Monday the 28th of February.*

*Note: The 21:00 sitrep of 27 February was forwarded to all ward offices on Monday 28 February at 06:29.*

**Q3.** List all locations where backflow devices were installed by Council in the following financial years, including the number installed per location:-

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FINANCIAL YEAR** | **LOCATION** | **NUMBER OF BACKFLOW DEVICES INSTALLED PER LOCATION** |
| 2016-2017 |  |  |
| 2017-2018 |  |  |
| 2018-2019 |  |  |
| 2019-2020 |  |  |
| 2020-2021 |  |  |
| 2021-2022 |  |  |

***A3.***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***FINANCIAL YEAR*** | ***LOCATION*** | ***NUMBER OF BACKFLOW DEVICES INSTALLED PER LOCATION*** |
| *2016-2017* | *Lackey Ave, Coorparoo*  *Praed St, Red Hill*  *Hollins Cres, New Farm* | *3*  *1*  *1* |
| *2017-2018* | *Charlotte St, Wynnum*  *Jamieson St, Bulimba (inc. surrounding streets)* | *1*  *15* |
| *2018-2019* | *Bryden St, Wilston*  *Murray St, Wilston* | *1*  *1* |
| *2019-2020* | *Ann St, Fortitude Valley*  *Victoria St, Windsor*  *Sinbad St, Shorncliffe*  *Malcolm St & Barton St, Hawthorne* | *2*  *1*  *1*  *3* |
| *2020-2021* | *Victoria St, Windsor* | *1* |
| *2021-2022* | *Walton St, Dutton Park*  *Clarendon St, East Brisbane (to be installed)* | *1*  *1* |

*Note: Since the 2011 floods, Council has installed a total of 183 backflow devices across the city.*

**Q4.** List all properties purchased by Council as part of the flood buy-back scheme for the following financial years:-

| **FINANCIAL YEAR** | **ADDRESS** | **SUBURB** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2016-2017 |  |  |
| 2017-2018 |  |  |
| 2018-2019 |  |  |
| 2019-2020 |  |  |
| 2020-2021 |  |  |
| 2021-2022 |  |  |

***A4.*** *It is assumed that the question is referring to the Voluntary Home Purchase Scheme which ended in 2016-2017. Throughout the ten years of the Scheme, Council purchased 112 properties. It concluded after all eligible homeowners had a final opportunity to either accept or reject Council’s offer to purchase their property.*

**Q5.** How much revenue has Brisbane City Council received as a result of the Queensland Government’s 10-cent drink container refund scheme.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FINANCIAL YEAR** | **REVENUE** |
| 2018-2019 |  |
| 2019-2020 |  |
| 2020-2021 |  |
| 2021-2022 (to date) |  |

***A5.*** *The response has been provided to Councillors separately due to its Commercial-in-Confidence nature.*

**Q6.** How is the revenue from the Queensland Government’s 10-cent drink container refund scheme used?

***A6.*** *Revenue from the scheme is used to support Council’s waste services.*

**Q7.** What is the percentage split between the contractors operating Brisbane’s Materials Recycling Facilities (MRF) at the Resource and Recovery Centres of the revenue from the Queensland Government’s 10-cent drink container refund scheme.

***A7.*** *As there is only one contractor, there is no percentage split between contractors.*

**Q8.** How many homes has Brisbane City Council offered as emergency accommodation under the Community Housing Partnership Project for each of the following financial years:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FINANCIAL YEAR** | **NUMBER OF HOMES** |
| 2013-2014 |  |
| 2019-2020 |  |
| 2020-2021 |  |
| 2021-2022 (to date) |  |

***A8.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***FINANCIAL YEAR*** | ***NUMBER OF HOMES*** |
| *2013-2014* | *21* |
| *2019-2020* | *20* |
| *2020-2021* | *18* |
| *2021-2022 (to date)* | *15* |

**RISING OF COUNCIL: 9.26pm.**

**PRESENTED: and CONFIRMED**

**CHAIR**

**Council officers in attendance:**

Victor Tan (Council and Committee Coordinator)

Dorian Maruda (A/Council and Committee Officer)

Billy Peers (Personal Support Officer to the Lord Mayor and Council Orderly)